



Contextualizing the Star-shaped Lamps in the Levant

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In the eastern Mediterranean wheel-made and moldmade multi-nozzle lamps represent a small, yet conspicuous category. Of particular interest is a category of star-shaped lamps with seven nozzles, found in the southern Levant at coastal sites, on the Golan Heights, in the Decapolis and in Idumea, with sporadic examples from Delos and Ras Ihn Hani in northern Syria. The sites have a predominantly gentile population of diverse ethnicity. To date, no lamps have been recorded in Hasmonean Judea and in Nabatea, and no workshops have been identified. The prevalent lamps with incuse chevron patterns (cat. nos. 10–26) display differences in the execution of the morphological features and of the ornamentation, suggesting the hands of several artisans and craftsmen. There is no explicit conformity to assign lamps to the same workshop. Clearly, the lamp cat. no. 27 was produced in a different workshop than the gray ware lamps, and the uncommon nozzle-bridge¹ ornamentation and the small schematic rosette on the base define it a derivation. The interdependence of lamps in gray, brown and red ware can be deduced from the shared motifs (see III. 1 for lamps from Dora with cat. nos. 1 and 24 and III. 2–3 for the assemblage from Kedesh with cat. no. 16).

It is not clear whether the gray appearance was deliberately chosen or a chance product. Probably, it was at the same time a matter of popular fashion and technique. The gray colour was achieved by terminating the firing process during the reduction phase in a varying time span, resulting in light gray clay with dark gray / black dull slip. Susan Rotroff suggests technical considerations, aimed at reducing porosity², for lamps and containers of precious substances an important economic aspect. The potters of the star-shaped lamps of the southern Levant achieved a good-quality fabric which however is not equivalent to the fine fabric of Attic products and the export-orientated manufacture in the Ephesos region.

1 The nozzles comprise the circular nozzle-head, nozzle-bridge and nozzle-neck, following LAPP 2016, *passim*.

2 ROTROFF 2006, 140.



III. 1

The shape-type³

In his publication of the lamps from Sepphoris Eric C. Lapp uses the term ›shape-type‹ to describe a specific group of lamps with common features such as fabric and morphology, motifs and patterns, inscriptions and makers' marks. The star-shaped lamps discussed in this paper represent a shape-type.

In general, Hellenistic moldmade ornamented lamps with handles and knobs, shoulder side lugs with S-coils, sometimes projecting slightly, or lamps without any of these features follow an antithetic concept with a clear axial division. Drawing an imaginary vertical line from the tip of the nozzle to the rear side, two halves emerge which are equal in size, shape and decorative elements (disregarding the lamps with a single side lug or S-coil; see cat. nos. 8–9. 30). The star-shaped circular lamps with projecting nozzles display a different concept of symmetry, namely radially. It is no longer the notion of a linear division, but rather a surface plane with a radiating effect, suggesting a circular movement emanating from a central point, i.e., the central filling-hole. Artistically, the bulk of moldmade lamps of the Hellenistic period reflects a concept of antitheticity, while the small number of star-shaped lamps reflect a concept of radially. This explains the general absence of handles⁴ and distinguishes the Hellenistic

3 LAPP 2016, 12.

4 For a possible exception see cat. no. 28 with references.



III. 2

lamps from the circular lamps with seven nozzles and handle of the Roman period with an antithetic concept⁵. The shared features of the star-shaped lamps are flat-topped nozzles (except for cat. no. 28 with undecorated, round-topped nozzles), wick-holes surrounded by clearly defined flat bands (cat. nos. 10. 13–14. 16–19. 22–23. 25. 27) and plain or molded framing rings surrounding the filling-hole. Rare features are double ridges on top and underside (cat. nos. 10–11. 23 and possibly nos. 18–19. 25 with only the top view published) or cable strips on the top (cat. no. 28). The ridges separate the nozzles, creating another radial pattern.

5 For examples see ISRAELI – AVIDA 1988, nos. 32–33; ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 2009, figs. 7–9.



III. 3

The motifs

Although the imagery displayed on the star-shaped lamps is limited to a small number of floral and geometric motifs, it tallies with the dominant decorative elements of the late Hellenistic moldmade lamps with single and multiple nozzles, in particular the gray ware lamps. The motifs comprise rosettes, chaplets of petals, different bands of chevrons / herringbone patterns, sometimes simply V-shaped, and cable strips. Five-petalled rosettes adorn the nozzle-bridge (cat. nos. 1–2). The seven-, eight- and nine-petalled rosettes (cat. nos. 1. 5. 10. 14) and the three schematic rosettes (cat. nos. 20. 23. 27) on the base are most likely decorative and not makers' marks. Chaplets of petals encircle the framing ring surrounding the central filling-hole (cat. nos. 1–3). The predominant bands of chevrons are generally single (cat. nos. 10–23). Lamps with a double band of chevrons (cat. no. 24), with a single band of chevrons flanked by cable strips (cat. no. 25) and with single-rib palmettes (cat. no. 27) are uncommon.

Two motifs illustrated in the parallels are of particular interest: palmettes and the crown of Isis. Besides the single-rib palmette on lamp no. 27 there are fan-palmettes adorning lamp no. 6, and the crown of Isis is depicted on lamp no. 31. Although not characteristic ornaments on the star-shaped lamps, they are common on the related lamps with single nozzle and document the visual connectivity in the material culture in the Mediterranean pan-Hellenistic koine. Both motifs are used on ESA ware plates⁶.

6 For the evidence from Samaria see CROWFOOT 1957a, figs. 74–75; for the Isis crown on coins see fig. 76, 6–8. At Tel Anafa the earliest stamps appear sealed below HELL 2B or 2C floors, c. 110–75 BCE (SLANE 1997, 334–335 and pl. 27).

The dating evidence⁷

Some of the lamps were recovered in dated contexts. Yet, the beginning and end of manufacture cannot be securely determined.

Delos: the suggested dating is the second half of the 2nd c. and the beginning of the 1st c. BCE⁸.

The time-span tallies with the S-coil and Erotes lamps⁹.

Tel Anafa: cat. no. **15** – Hell 2A, ca. 125–110 BCE¹⁰.

Kedesh: cat. no. **16** – from an assemblage in situ (**III. 3**) dated to the year 143 BCE, when the administrative building was abandoned in the wake of the battle between Jonathan the Maccabean and Demetrius I, king of Syria¹¹.

Pella: cat. no. **10** – from a c. 80 BCE destruction level of a Hellenistic ‘villa’, when the city fell to Alexander Jannaeus¹².

Dora: cat. no. **1** – c. 275–175 BCE, Phase 4b13; cat. **22** – date of locus about 300–225 BCE¹⁴.

Maresha: cat. nos. **2** and **5** – from the Subterranean Complex 169, the late 2nd c. BCE is the *terminus ad quem* for the unstratified fill¹⁵.

The contextual evidence

The star-shaped lamps originate from residential quarters at various sites; none were recorded in burials. Hence, they were objects of daily use, though less dominant than the ubiquitous lamps with single nozzle. The so-called pantry assemblage from Kedesh (**III. 2–3**) illustrates lamps and table wares characteristic of a mid-2nd c. BCE habitation context.

The fragmentary lamps cat. nos. **2** and **5** came to light in the Subterranean Complex 169 at Maresha¹⁶. To date, it represents the most opulent assemblage of diverse objects of daily use and cultic material, tableware and utility pottery, oil lamps, terracotta figurines, incense altars, chalk phalli, amulets and jewellery, game boards, glass and faience objects, votive plaques, Aramaic divination texts, Greek ostraca, coins, seals and sealings, loom weights and whorls. The bulk of ceramic finds, dating from the 3rd to the late 2nd cent. BCE, documents a well-to-do population, living on the periphery of the classical realm, yet linked to the existing Eastern Mediterranean trading networks. In view of the quantity of ritual items discovered that can be related to cultic activity, the excavator suggests to relate the cultic finds to a nearby temple and / or to surface dwelling(s) associated with the sanctuary, while not discounting the possibility that other finds like the local and imported pottery (and the lamps) represent domestic refuse from private dwellings¹⁷.

7 For sites with securely datable Hellenistic occupation see BERLIN 2015, 632 Table 6.1.2.

8 BRUNEAU 1965, 102.

9 BRUNEAU 1965, 83. 87.

10 DOBBINS 2012, 150.

11 BERLIN ET AL. 2014, 311.

12 Pers. comm. John Tidmarsh.

13 GUZ-ZILBERSTEIN 1995, 320.

14 GUZ-ZILBERSTEIN 1995, 337. Though seemingly early, the date tallies with the beginning of the Erotes lamps (cat. no. **8**) in Egypt (CAHN-KLAIBER 1977, 134–139) and Athens (HOWLAND 1985, 143–145 Type 45 A).

15 STERN 2019, 1.

16 STERN 2019; AMBAR-AMON 2019, fig. 10.24, 776. 778.

17 STERN 2019, 407.



Conclusions

With the finds concentrated in the southern Levant, except for Delos and Ras Ibn Hani, it is tempting to suggest that the lamps were manufactured in the area, representing a regional group of the diverse and widespread multi-nozzles. The geometric and floral imagery tallies with the ubiquitous single-nozzle lamps from several Levantine workshops; constant decorative features comprise the chaplet of chevrons encircling the framing ring of the filling-hole, rosettes and bands of chevrons on the nozzle. The earliest lamps from after the middle or from the late 3rd c. BCE were found in Athens and Egypt¹⁸. Yet, the source of inspiration for the star-shaped lamps remains an unanswered question.

The find-spots of the lamps with single nozzle (cat. nos. 8. 29–30), discussed as parallels for the imagery of the star-shaped lamps, document a concentration at Phoenician coastal sites. In view of the evidence that the lamps of gray, red-brown and semi fine fabrics at Beirut and Tel Anafa were most likely produced in the same workshop(s) in the region of Tyre¹⁹, it is suggested here that the seven-burners originate in Phoenicia. At Delos the Levantine S-coil and Eroses lamps (of the former 728 were recorded²⁰) were popular, and in a previous publication the present author considered that the lamps were brought to the site by merchants and settlers from Tyre and Beirut²¹. Though not discussing the star-shaped lamps J. Młynarczyk had reached the same conclusion, based on the dispersion of the Levantine lamps of Ptolemaic date (her Type A-Prime and Type D-Prime)²². J. J. Dobbins pointed out that gray fabric lamps have a ›generally Levantine-oriented distribution pattern‹, their presence at Delos resulting from the presence of Phoenician traders²³. While Delos' position as a dominant trade hub in the eastern Mediterranean is undisputed, the question of the scale and distance of lamp exportation is disputed, and the question whether the presence of gray ware lamps indicate long-distance trade cannot be answered. Nevertheless, their sheer number at Delos is evidence for their frequent use in many households and cannot be attributed solely to traders.

To date, there is no contextual evidence for a non-domestic use of the star-shaped lamps; those presented and discussed here belong to the domestic private sphere. However, it is not a general rule. At Panticapaion on the Black Sea multi-nozzles are attested both in temples and private houses; the assumption that they were used in home sanctuaries or had another sacred role is unfounded²⁴. For seven-nozzlers of the Roman period ritual use is indicated, and the symbolic significance of the seven lights, expressed in the Jewish menorah, could apply also to clay lamps²⁵. Lamps with seven burners are documented in the Bronze and Iron Age²⁶, as pointed out by scholars²⁷. E. Stern considered the Hellenistic lamps derivatives and / or survivals of the earlier lamps, and concluded: »The sacred number seven in these cultures passed into Jewish tradition in the form the seven-branched Menorah«²⁸. However, with the chronological gaps and the lack of continuous evidence the deduction is speculative.

18 HOWLAND 1958, 143–145 Type 45 A; CAHN-KLAIBER 1977, 134–139; MŁYNARCZYK 1997, 107. 110 Table 2.

19 FRANGIÉ 2011, 315–318; DOBBINS 2012, 110–111. 200.

20 BRUNEAU 1965, 83.

21 ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 2009, 205*.

22 MŁYNARCZYK 1997, 25. 39.

23 DOBBINS 2012, 110.

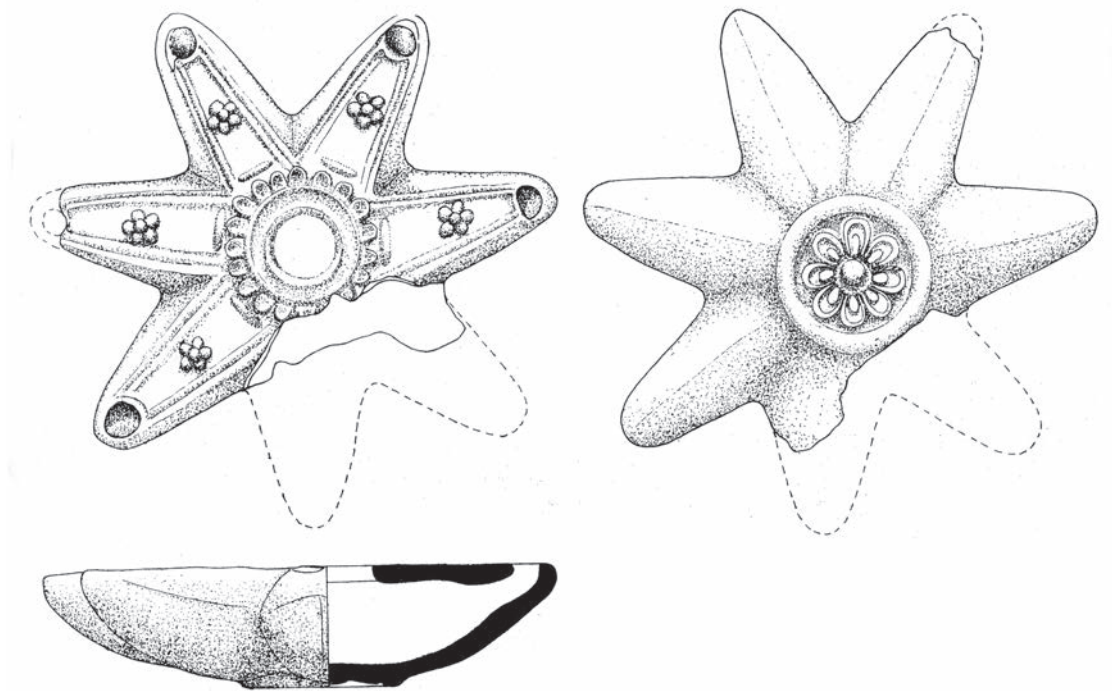
24 ZHURAVLEV – ZHURAVLEVA 2004, 4.

25 ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 2009, 203*–205*.

26 See the seven-cupped Middle Bronze Age lamp from Megiddo (ILAN – MARCUS 2019, 20 and pl. 1.2.25, 9). For Iron Age saucer lamps see BEN-TOR – ZARZECKI-PELEG 2015, 145 and pl. 2.2.20, 12; HERZOG – SINGER-AVITZ 2015, 222 and pl. 2.4.18, 7; TAPPY 2015, 331 and pl. 3.2.8, 4.

27 KASSAB TEZGÖR – SEZER 1995, 37 no. 18. 170; SUSSMAN 2007, 49.

28 STERN 2000, 236.



1 (1 : 2)

Lastly, I no longer concur with my previous suggestion that the Hellenistic clay lamps with seven nozzles might have been created as a visual image of Jewish identity under Hasmonean rule. There is no secure evidence that the artisans and purchasers of such lamps were Jewish, although some of the sites had gentile and Jewish dwellers.

Catalogue

Lamps with relief decoration

1. Gray ware lamp from Dora²⁹

D. 14; base D. 4.1; H. 3.1.

Five nozzles are preserved, with the tip of one nozzle lacking and two missing. Each nozzle is framed by two lateral ridges and a single ridge at both ends. The flat-topped nozzle-bridge is decorated with a five-petalled rosette. The central filling-hole has a framing ring with two moldings, surrounded by a chaplet of petals. The wide base-ring is filled with an eight-petalled rosette.

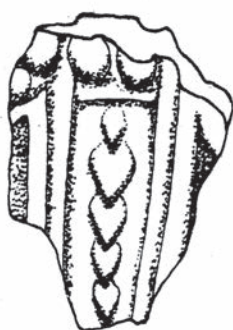
Shoulder rosettes (cat. nos. 6. 29. 31) and chaplets of petals (cat. nos. 7. 9) are prevalent decorative elements. The rosette on the base can be a maker's mark or an ornament (cat. nos. 5 and 14 for seven-petalled rosettes; eight-petalled rosettes occur on Erotes lamps, cat. no. 8 and BRUNEAU 1965, no. 4179; for a nine-petalled rosette see cat. no. 10).

²⁹ ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 1995, fig. 5.19, 1 = ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 2009, fig. 1 = ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 2015, 686 and pl. 6.2.14, 2. For most circular lamps the diameter is measured; however, in cases where the width or the length is listed in the publications, these measurements are given.





2



3



5

2. Gray ware fragment from Maresha³⁰

Preserved is a part of the upper half, including three of seven nozzles. The lamp is the same shape-type as cat. no. 1, with rosettes and chaplet of petals.

3. Gray ware nozzle fragment from Dora³¹

Size 4 x 3.

The fragment preserves a small section of the chaplet of petals. On the nozzle-bridge there is a band of overlapping pointed leaves.

The nozzle decoration occurs on a lamp with single nozzle from Ramat Rahel³².

30 AMBAR-ARMON 2019, fig. 10.24, 776.

31 ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 2009, fig. 2. The lamp was found in Area B, W366, Reg. no. 2791, unstratified.

32 SUSSMAN 2009, no. 136.



6

4. Fragment from Ras Ibn Hani, north Syria (not illustrated)³³
Two nozzles and part of a third preserved. The chaplet of petals surrounds the central filling-hole. The rosettes on the nozzles are placed closer to the chaplet compared to cat. no. 1.
5. Gray ware base fragment from Maresha³⁴
Preserved is the seven-petalled rosette. It is possible though not definite that the fragment belonged to a seven-nozzler like cat. 1 (see cat. no. 14 for a seven-petalled rosette, cat. nos. 1. 8 for eight-petalled rosettes and cat. no. 10 for a nine-petalled rosette).

Parallels for imagery

6. Gray ware fragment from Maresha³⁵
The lamp with three radiating nozzles is adorned with three fan-palmettes and three rosettes. The rosettes are flanked by cable strips.
Delos: BRUNEAU 1965, 84–85 nos. 4031. 4039. 4050. 4064 (fan-palmette on the nozzle-bridge on lamps with lateral S-coil).

33 BOUNNI ET AL. 1979, fig. 7 top left.

34 AMBAR-ARMON 2019, fig. 10.24, 778.

35 AMBAR-ARMON 2019, fig. 10.24, 772.



7

7. Red ware lamp from Maresha³⁶

The lamp with three radiating nozzles has a chaplet of petals surrounding the filling-hole.

Delos: BRUNEAU 1965, 102 no. 4418; *Mishmar ha-'Emeq* (identified with Gabae in Palaestina Secunda, Jezreel Valley)³⁷: SUSSMAN 2009, no. 204 (pink clay, brown-red slip, from a burial cave). Several Egyptian parallels are listed in MŁYNARCZYK 1997, 61–62.

8. Red ware Erotes lamp from Dora³⁸

L. 8.8; W. 6; H. 3.1.

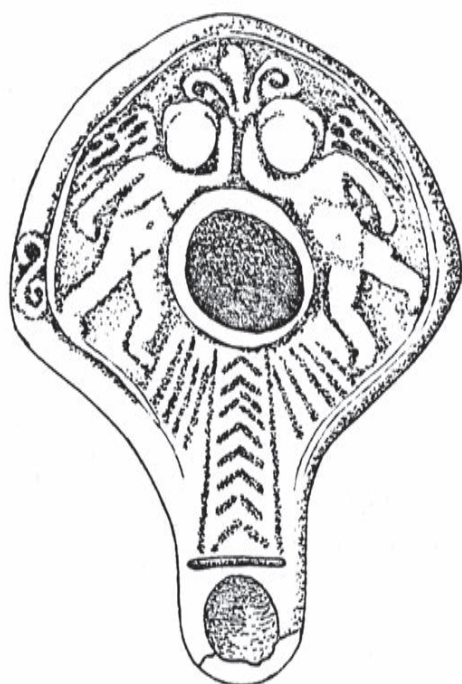
On the shoulder, there are two antithetical Erotes supporting a palmette between their heads. On the nozzle-bridge, a band of chevrons between grooves. A transverse groove demarcates the nozzle-head. Cable strips separate nozzle and shoulder. To the side, there is a lug with S-coil. The central filling-hole has a framing ring. The base-ring is filled with an eight-petalled rosette (see cat. no. 1).

Same shape-type – *Delos*: BRUNEAU 1965, 87–88 (no. 4144; no. 4179 with an eight-petalled rosette on the base); *Byblos*: FRANGIÉ – SALLES 2011, pl. 4, 19051; *Beirut*: FRANGIÉ 2012, 319 and fig. 26 (gray and red ware, Phoenician semi fine); *Sidon-Saïda*: REY-COQUAIS 1963, no. 1 (gray ware, local product); *Tel Anafa*: DOBBINS 2012, 135 L 69. 137 L 84 (Phoenician semi fine); *Jaffa*: SUSSMAN 2009, no. 162; TSUF 2018, no. 1119 (gray ware).

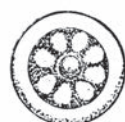
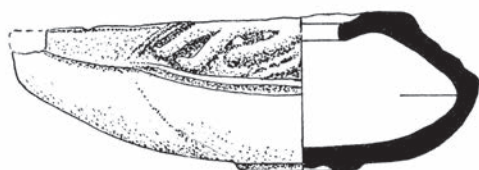
36 AMBAR-ARMON 2019, fig. 10.24, 771.

37 TSAFRIR ET AL. 1994, 126.

38 ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 1995, 237 Type 11.4 and fig. 5.16, 6.



8



8 (2:3)



9

9. Gray ware lamp³⁹

L. 11.4; W. 6.8; H. 3.5.

The lamp displays elements of the star-shaped lamps: the framing rim with two moldings surrounding the filling-hole and the chaplet of petals. The band of chevrons on the nozzle and two bands separating nozzle and shoulder, recalling cable strips with their central raised rib (cat. nos. 6. 29. 31). and the five mid-rib palmettes on the shoulder are different (a side lug takes the place of the sixth palmette). The flat base is marked by a groove.

39 Jeselsohn Collection, Zurich (J 2810).

Lamps with incuse decoration

In this category chevron patterns represent the predominant decoration, demonstrating considerable diversity. The single (cat. nos. **10–23. 25**) and double bands (cat. no. **24**) can be framed by ridges (cat. nos. **10–12. 14. 17. 22–23**; on no. **20** with a shallow decoration there are grooves). Orientated in two directions, they point toward the nozzle-head and the wick-hole (cat. nos. **10–11. 15. 17–19. 20. 23–25**) or toward the framing ring and the filling-hole nozzle (cat. **12. 14. 16**). On lamp no. **13** the chevron pattern follows both directions, while on lamp no. **25** a schematic single band of chevrons is framed by cable strips. The chevron patterns are always incuse, and were either impressed on the archetype or incised on the lamp. Bands of leaves adorn the nozzles of two lamps (cat. nos. **21–22**). Double ridges can separate the nozzles on top and underside (cat. nos. **10–11. 23** and possibly nos. **18–19. 25** with only the top view published). The rosettes on the bases (cat. nos. **10. 14**) are most likely decorative and not makers' marks. On Egyptian lamps the eight-petalled rosette is quite common (see also the Erotes lamp cat. no. **8**)⁴⁰.

10. Gray ware lamp from Pella⁴¹

D. 12.4; H. 3.2.

Shape-type like cat. nos. **11** and **23**. The filling-hole is surrounded by a framing ring with two moldings. Pendant from the framing ring, the nozzles bear a single band of chevrons framed by ridges. On the top and underside, the nozzles are separated by double ridges. The centre of the wide base-ring is filled with a nine-petalled rosette.

11. Gray ware lamp from Samaria (not illustrated)⁴²

L. 11.3; H. 2.7.

Shape-type like cat. nos. **10** and **23**; the flat framing ring surrounding the filling-hole corresponds with no. **23**. Six nozzles are preserved, the seventh is assumed, its place wrongly restored according to the authors.

12. Gray ware lamp from Pella⁴³

Max. W. 12.

The three intact and three partly preserved nozzles are decorated with a single band of chevrons. The bands do not reach the framing ring, leaving a plain section.

13. Gray ware lamp from Dora⁴⁴

D. 10; H. 2.9.

Six out of seven nozzles preserved, on three the nozzle-head is missing. A single band of chevrons decorates five nozzles, on two nozzles the chevrons point toward the nozzle-head and on three they point toward the framing ring and the filling-hole; a band with incised criss-crosses adorns on the sixth nozzle. A transverse groove demarcates the

40 MEYNARCYK 1997, 111–115 and fig. 201.

41 I warmly thank John Tidmarsh for permitting me to publish the lamp recovered in the 2017 excavations, and for the relevant information (Reg. no. CN 7861; from plot XXIIID).

42 KASSAB TEZGÖR – SEZER 1995, 170 no. 456. The authors state that the lamp was found by the Harvard expedition in 1910; though not published in the excavation report, the two fragmentary lamps (cat. nos. **18–19**) are mentioned.

43 HENNESSY 1980, pl. 17, 4.

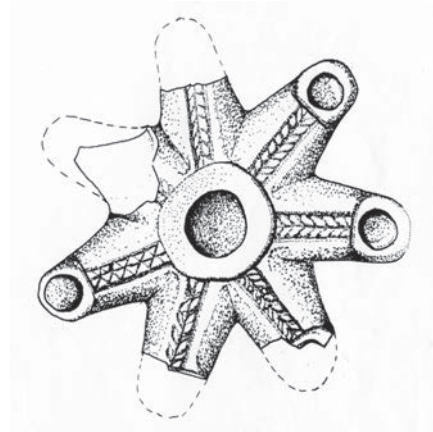
44 ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 2009, fig. 4. The lamp was found in Area D1, L5402, Reg. no. 54011.







12 (ca. 1 : 2)



13 (ca. 1 : 2)

wick-hole. The central filling-hole is surrounded by a framing ring sloping slightly inward.

14. Gray ware lamp from Tel Anafa⁴⁵

W. 11; H. 2,5.

One nozzle lacks the nozzle-head. The single bands of chevrons are framed by ridges and demarcated by a groove at the nozzle-head, resulting from the flat bands surrounding the wick-holes; a ridge demarcates the chevron bands close to the framing ring, leaving a plain section. The centre of the wide base-ring is filled with a seven-petalled rosette.

15. Gray ware lamp from Tel Anafa⁴⁶

Max. P. D. 6.

Two nozzles are preserved with single band of chevrons extending to the framing ring.

16. Gray ware lamp from Tel Kedesh (III. 2–3)

Est. D. 12.

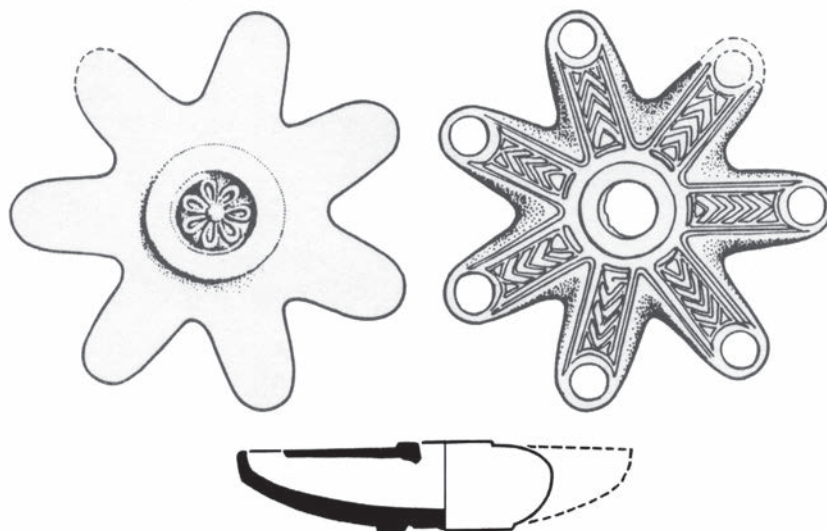
The shallow ornamentation of the fragmentary lamp, reconstructed from a number of joining fragments, comprises shallow single bands of chevrons, most of them blurred; it is not clear whether the chevrons had framing ridges.

45 DOBBINS 2012, 150 L 167.

46 DOBBINS 2012, 150 L 168.



14



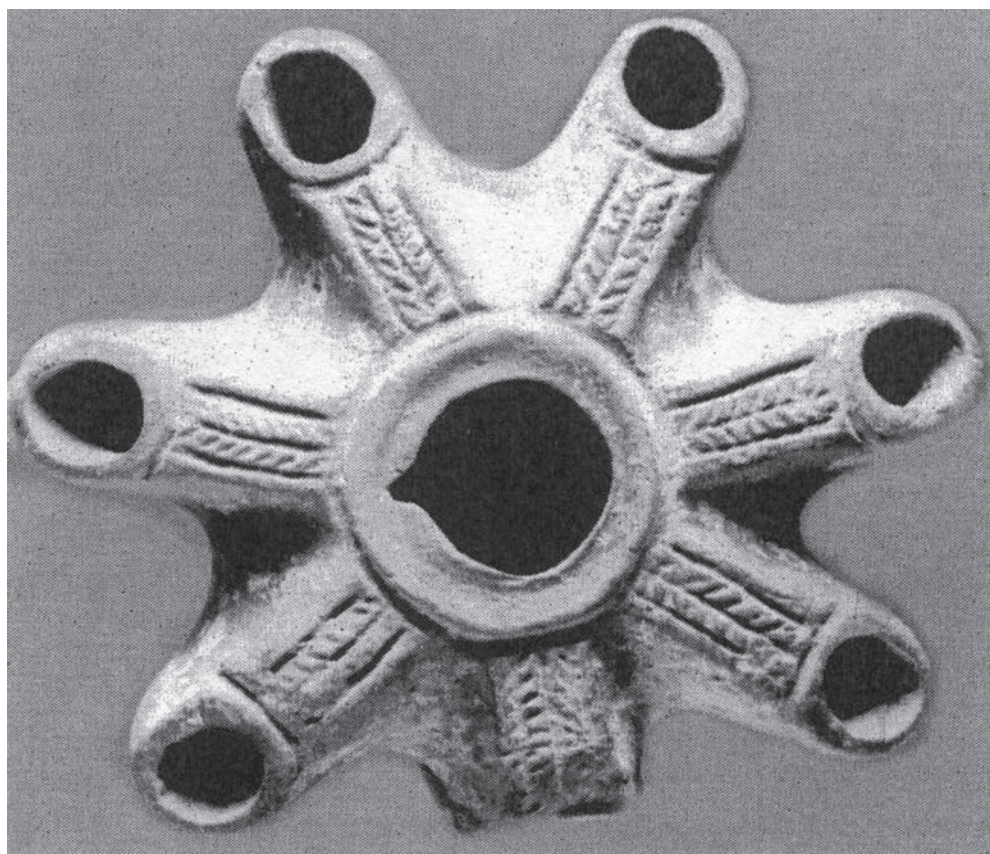
14 (1:2)



15



16



17

17. Gray ware lamp⁴⁷

D. 13.8.

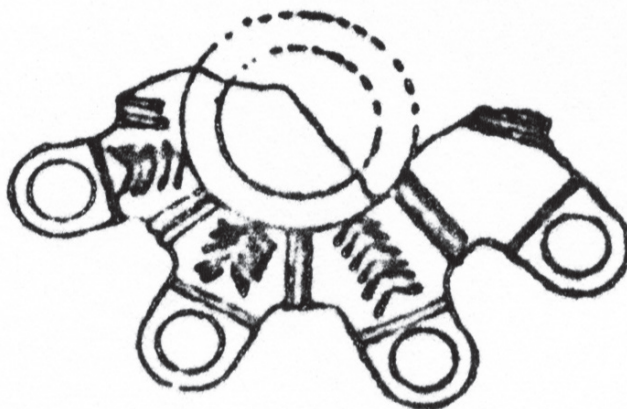
A single nozzle-head is missing. The single chevron bands differ slightly from each other. At the nozzle-head, the bands are demarcated by a groove, resulting from the flat bands surrounding the wick-holes.

The lamp is exhibited in the Rockefeller Museum, Jerusalem: the find-spot is not known. V. Sussman claims that it came to light in the Harvard excavations at Samaria⁴⁸. She identifies the band of chevrons with a palm branch or herringbone pattern, suggesting that the symbol of Apollo in Classical and Hellenistic Greece was copied in the local lamp production under the Hasmoneans⁴⁹. Tracing palm branches from Neolithic to Islamic times in different artistic media, it is not to be disputed that the palm branch was a widespread symbol. However, the identification as palm branch and the interpretation of the chevron pattern as palm branch remain speculative.

47 PAM Gallery Book 1943, no. 877; SCHALIT 1972, fig. 38; SUSSMAN 2009, 49 no. 203; SUSSMAN 2019, fig. 3 (in both publications the reference to REISNER ET AL. 1924, fig. 81 is erroneous; on pl. 81 p the photo of cat. 18 is published).

48 In SUSSMAN 2009, 133 the registration no. 33.3316 for no. 203 refers to the lamp no. 203a (here cat. no. 23), while the registration no. 33.3318 is a sigillata bowl. In the files of the Rockefeller Museum, the 33 denotes the registration in 1933 and indicates that the find belongs to the second expedition to Samaria, directed by J. W. Crowfoot in the years 1931–1935. I thank Alegre Savariego for her helping to clarify the matter.

49 SUSSMAN 2019, 397.



19 (ca. 2 : 3)

18. Gray ware lamp from Samaria (not illustrated)⁵⁰

Fragmentary lamp with two nozzles preserved. On top, the nozzles are separate by double ridges. The shape-type corresponds with cat. nos. 10 and 23.

19. Gray ware lamp from Samaria⁵¹

Est. D. 10.4.

Preserved are four nozzles with different single bands of chevrons. The nozzles are separated by double ridges pendant from the framing ring. A transverse groove demarcates the nozzle-head. On the top, the nozzles are separated by double ridges, the underside is not illustrated. Note that on the nozzle to the right there is no chevron pattern.

20. Lamp from Maresha⁵²

L. 12.6; H. 3.3.

Pinkish clay, on top red slip.

The two nozzles at the bottom of the photo are reconstructed. Differing from the standard lamps the ornamentation is shallow. The nozzle tops are adorned with different schematic chevron patterns, framed by grooves. The central filling-hole is surrounded by a framing ring. A transverse groove demarcates the nozzle-head. The pseudo-base-ring⁵³ is marked by two grooves with a schematic rosette, either decorative or a marker's mark.

50 REISNER ET AL. 1924, 320 C I, 12.b and pl. 81 p.

51 REISNER ET AL. 1924, 320 fig. 193 C I, 12.a.

52 AMBAR-ARMON 2007, 460. 521 no. 2634.

53 Differing from the raised base-ring with distinct moldings, the term describes flat bases demarcated by two closely set grooves (BAILEY 1980, 280).



20



20 (2:3)



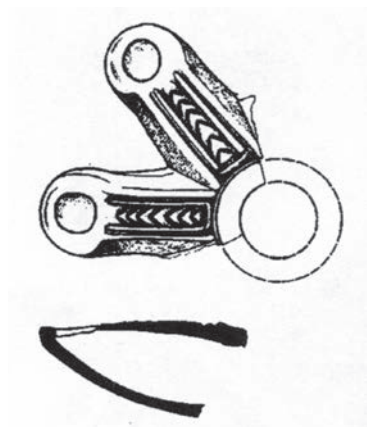
21

21. Brown / gray ware lamp from Maresha⁵⁴

L. 9.5; H. 2.9.

The nozzles bear an indistinct pattern of four leaves (?), framed by ridges. The central filling-hole is surrounded by a framing ring. The flat base is marked by a groove.

⁵⁴ AMBAR-ARMON 2007, 460. 521 no. 2635.



22 (ca. 1 : 2)



23

22. Gray ware lamp from Jaffa⁵⁵

Est. D. 12.5.

Two nozzles are preserved, decorated with a band of triangular leaves, framed by ridges and pointing toward the nozzle-head.

Delos: BRUNEAU 1965, 102 no. 4449 (D. 11.8).

23. Gray ware lamp⁵⁶

D. 11.2; H. 3.

Shape-type like cat. nos. 10 and 11. The filling-hole is surrounded by a flat framing ring. Pendant from the framing ring, the nozzles bear a single band of chevrons framed by ridges, and on the top and underside the nozzles are separated by double ridges. The centre of the wide base-ring is filled with a schematic rosette.

An identical lamp came to light in the residential quarter at Tel Iztabba, the site of Hellenistic Nysa-Scythopolis, destroyed by a conflagration in 107 BCE⁵⁷.

55 TSUF 2018, 411 fig. 9.7, 1135.

56 Jeselsohn Collection, Zurich (Reg. no. J 87).

57 SANDHAUS Forthcoming, fig. 3.26, 2. I thank the author for permission to mention the find.





24

24. Gray ware lamp from Dora⁵⁸

D. 11; base D. 3.7; H. 3.1.

The four intact nozzle tops bear different bands of chevrons, three with double bands and one with a central band flanked by two half chevrons. A transverse groove demarcates the nozzle-head. The central filling-hole is surrounded by a framing ring. The lamp was found in Area C0, L655, Reg. no. 5338⁵⁹.

25. Gray ware lamp from Samaria⁶⁰

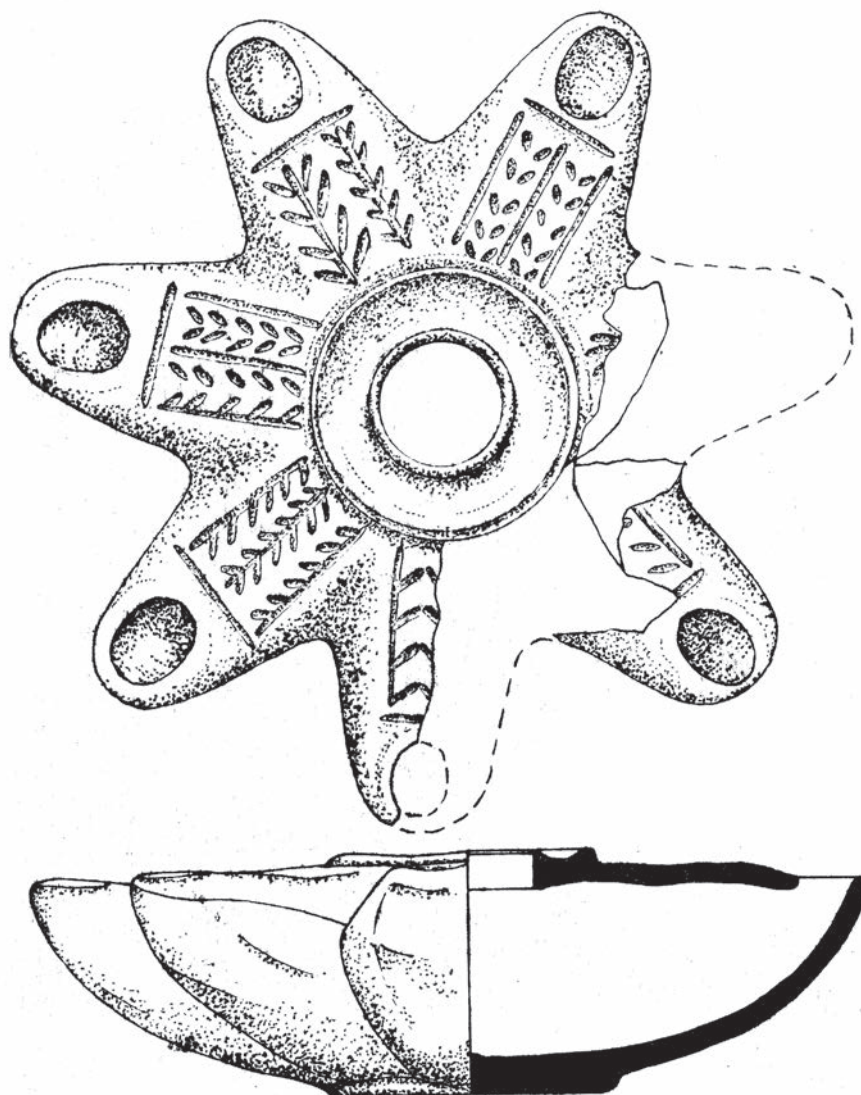
Est. D. 13.

Two nozzles are intact. The nozzles are decorated with schematic single bands of chevrons, framed by cable strips. On the top, the nozzles are separated by double ridges, the underside is not illustrated.

58 ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 1995, fig. 5.19, 2; ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 2009, fig. 3. In the Dor excavation report (ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 1995, 241 Type 16B, 4), the reference to Pella should be HENNESSY 1980, pl. 17, 4, and the cited possible parallel in OREN – RAPPAPORT 1984, pl. 16C is wrong.

59 The locus attribution to Phase 6? – the Persian Period – does not concur with the date of the lamp (ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 1995, 248).

60 CROWFOOT 1957b, fig. 87, 9; SUSSMAN 2009, no. 203a.



24

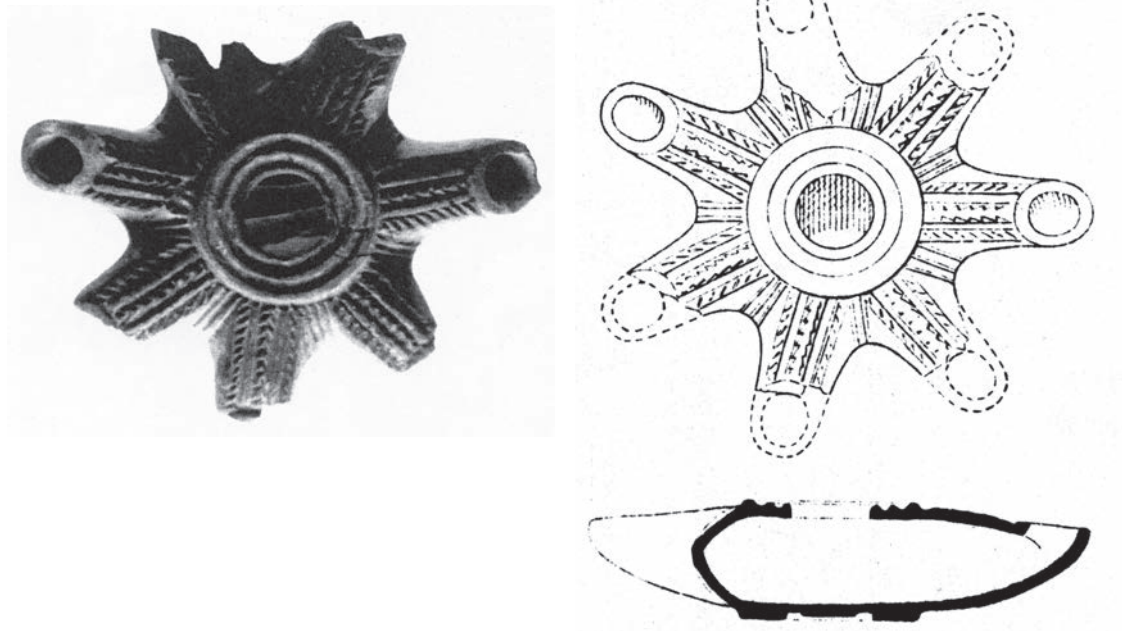
26. Red ware fragment from Caesarea Maritima (not illustrated)⁶¹

Pinkish white clay, red slip.

Preserved is the single nozzle decorated with a band of chevrons like cat. no. 12. Together with other Hellenistic lamps the fragment came to light in the fill of Herod's circus which originated from habitation debris at Straton's Tower and was redeposited during the initial construction phase, dated to 10/9 BCE⁶².

61 PORATH – GUR 2015, 6–7 and fig. 2.2, 10.

62 PORATH 2013, 3. 22.



25 (1 : 2)

Lamp decorated with palmettes

27. Brown / gray ware lamp⁶³

D. 14; H. 3.6.

Brown clay, dull dark gray slip on top and on outer half of lower nozzles.

The nozzle-bridge ornamentation of single-rib palmettes and the small schematic rosette on the base define the lamp as a derivation of the gray lamps.

Delos: BRUNEAU 1965, 102 no. 4448 (gray ware, long nozzles with single-rib palmettes of five petals).

Lamp with handle

28. Gray ware lamp from Tel Anafa⁶⁴

Est. W. 12.4.

Three non-joining fragments of top and underside of star-shaped lamp. The nozzle-bridge appears to have been plain. Cable strips on the shoulder, pendant from the framing ring, mark and separate the nozzles. The stub of a handle is visible on the underside fragment almost on axis between the two best-preserved nozzles (cat. 28b).

In the publication, it is suggested that the lamp had only six nozzles and that on the drawing the single nozzle is wrongly reconstructed on top of the handle stub (cat. 28a). Indeed, the single nozzle top does not tally with the framing ring of the two nozzles with the cable strips. Yet, moving the former in a correct position the most likely reconstruction indicates a lamp with seven nozzles and handle (cat. 28c). Parallels from the Athenian Agora and Delos illustrate the shape⁶⁵.

63 Jeselsohn Collection, Zurich (J 5113).

64 DOBBINS 2012, 150 L 169.

65 HOWLAND 1958, pl. 43, 460; BRUNEAU 1965, no. 4439.



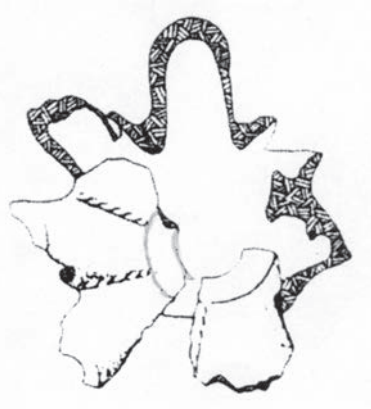
27



27 (2:3)



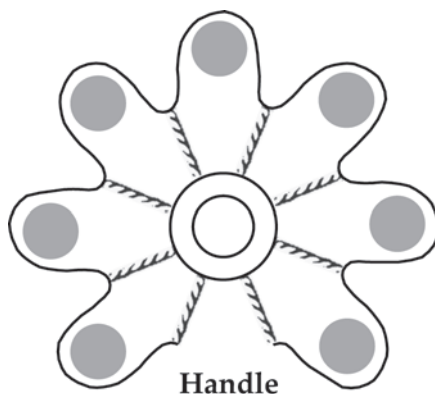
27



28a (unscaled)



28b (unscaled)



Handle

28c

The cable strip pattern with a single band between ridges (cat. nos. **6. 29. 31**) is common on Levantine Hellenistic lamps with a single nozzle, separating nozzle and shoulder and / or dividing the shoulder into sections. In some cases, the chevron band with a raised central rib resembles two cable strips (cat. no. **9**). For some parallels see *Beirut*: MIKATI 1998, pl. 9, 3; FRANGIÉ 2011, fig. 21; *Tyre*: MARCHAND 1996, no. 2 with reference to Sarepta; *Tel Anafa*: DOBBINS 2012, 148–149 L 155–158. 161–162. 164–166; *Nysa-Scythopolis*: JOHNSON 2006, 556 nos. 296–297, fig. 15, 16–17; *Dora*: see cat. **29**; *Maresha*: AMBAR-ARMON 2019, fig. 10.20, 725.

At Tel Anafa lamps with cable strips are of semi fine fabric, imported from the Tyre region; their introduction is dated after the middle of the 2nd c. BCE, yet the stratigraphical evidence is not conclusive with regard to their continuation into the late 1st c. BCE Roman settlement⁶⁶.

Parallels for imagery

29. Brown / red ware lamp from Dora⁶⁷

L. 9.5; W. 5.6; H. 2.1.

The lamp displays several elements of the star-shaped lamps. There are two six-petalled rosettes on the mid-shoulder, framed by cable strips between ridges and a band of chevrons close to the nozzle. A framing rim surrounds the filling-hole. The nozzle has a vertical central ridge, framed by ridges terminating in volutes close to the wick-hole. Scrolled volutes connect the bands of chevrons. The lamp has a disc base. It came to light in a Phase 4a context, dated 175–125 BCE⁶⁸.

Same shape-type – *Tyre*: REY-COQUAIS 1963, no. 3.

30. Gray / brown ware lamp from Dora⁶⁹

L. 8.1; W. 5.1; H. 2.8.

The shoulder bears eight bands of chevrons, set in a radial pattern. On one side of the mid-shoulder an S-coil pattern covers part of a band. The pattern is part of the lamp body⁷⁰ and not placed as a side lug⁷¹.

Same shape-type – *Delos*: BRUNEAU 1965, no. 4033; *Byblos*: FRANGIÉ – SALLES 2011, pl. 3, 19073; *Beirut*: MIKATI 1998, pl. 9, 2 (gray ware); FRANGIÉ 2011, fig. 22 (Phoenician semi fine)⁷²; *Jaffa*: TSUF 2018, no. 1129; *Ashdod*: SUSSMAN 2009, no. 246 (pink clay, red-brown slip, the chevrons identified with ears of wheat, an unlikely interpretation). A lamp in the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria is defined Levantine (MŁYNARCZYK 1997, 22 and fig. 15, six bands of chevrons).

⁶⁶ DOBBINS 2012, 143. 146.

⁶⁷ ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 1995, fig. 5.17, 11 = BERLIN 2015, 640 and pl. 6.1.22, 11.

⁶⁸ GUZ-ZILBERSTEIN 1995, 318.

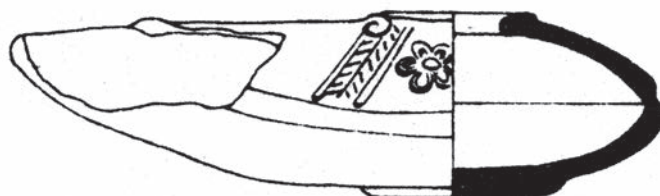
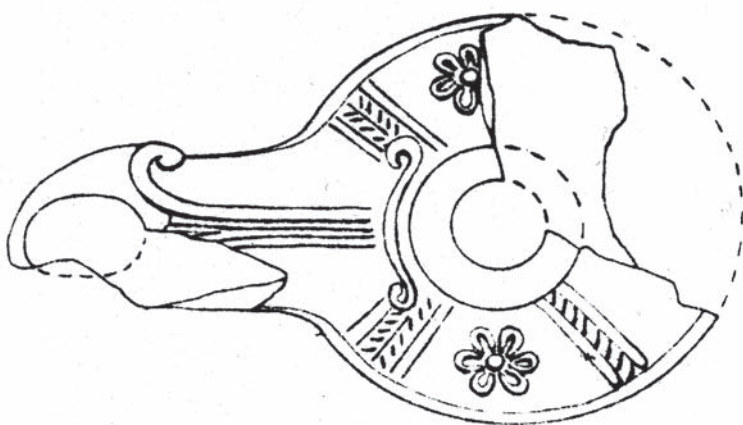
⁶⁹ Area D2, L17606, Reg. no. 176165 (unpublished).

⁷⁰ For more examples see lamps from Dora (ROSENTHAL-HEGINBOTTOM 1995, figs. 5.16, 11–13 and 5.17, 1–3) and Maresha (AMBAR-ARMON 2019, fig. 10.20, 707–709).

⁷¹ See AMBAR-ARMON 2019, figs. 10.20, 725; 735 and 10.23, 763.

⁷² At Beirut lamps with S-coil pattern are recorded in two fabrics: gray with a black / dark gray slip and light brown with red slip (FRANGIÉ 2011, 317).





29

31. Red ware lamp⁷³

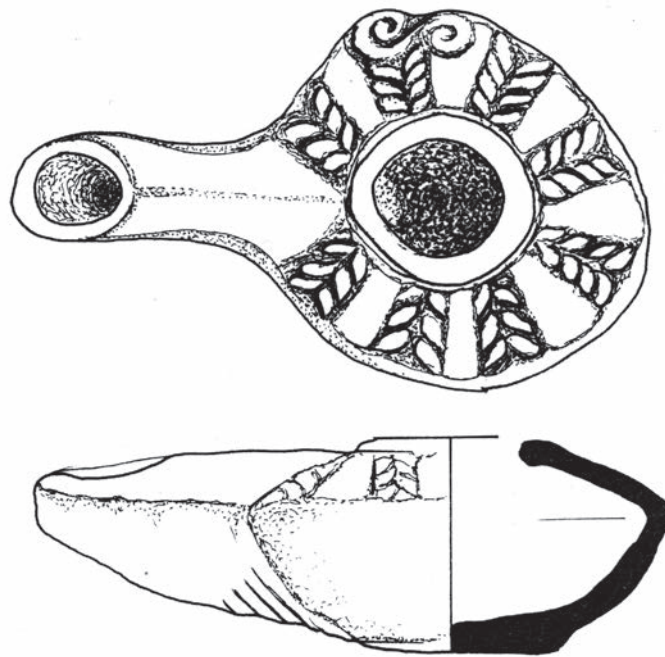
L. 10; W. 6.4; H. 2.9.

The decorative elements and their arrangement tallies with those on the lamp cat. no. 29: rosettes, cable strips, bands of chevrons and nozzle ornamentation. In addition, there is the crown of Isis⁷⁴ on the rear shoulder, a section missing on cat. no. 29.

Bet Yerah-Philoteria: TAL 2017, 64 fig. 4.3, LF2 (a rosette and caduceus on the nozzle).

⁷³ Jeselsohn Collection, Zurich (Reg. no. J 3896).

⁷⁴ See note 6.



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