

RECENT DISCOVERIES IN THE BAPTISM SITE THE POTTERY

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Important new information about the area of Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John the Baptist preached and baptized, has recently been revealed following archaeological sites along the length of Wādī al-Kharrār (وادي الخرار) since 1996.

Combined evidence from the holy texts, Byzantine and medieval writers accounts, and most recently archaeological work place the site of Jesus Baptism directly east of the Jordan River.

Wādī al-Kharrār is the modern name for Sapsaphas, which is depicted on the Mādabā mosaic map. The archaeological remains are scattered over small hills and barren terraces of marl and limestone. Several kinds of trees and plants still grow in the valley and reflect the beautiful nature of the area.

The Roman Period

Several structure and buildings were constructed on the hill during the Roman Period. The main

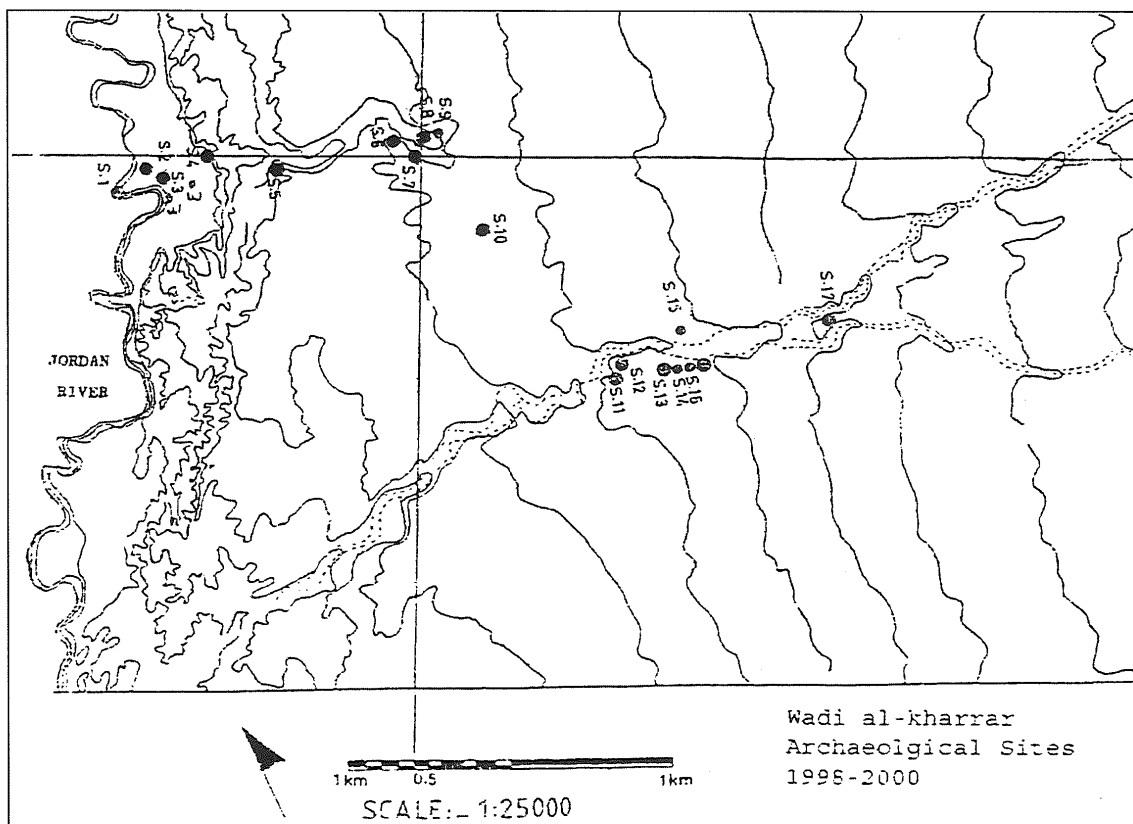
archaeological sites were numbered on the general map of the area (Fig. 1) as follows:

Site no. 3

A church, thought to be dedicated to John the Baptist, was discovered 300m east of the Jordan River in the Zawr area, bordered by Lisān marl cliffs on the east. Further excavations were conducted in the southern area of the prayer hall. More than 20 squares were opened at the site. Few architectural remains were found such as three *tawābīn* (ovens) and foundations of unknown structures. The recovered pottery dated to the early Roman period.

Site no. 8 (Tall al-Kharrār):

Tall al-Kharrār is a small low hill located at the southeastern end of Wādī al-Kharrār. The *tall* consists of white Lisān marl mixed with red soil on the top.



1. Wādī al-Kharrār archaeological sites.

The hill was occupied during the Roman and Byzantine periods. Systematic excavations at the site revealed the presence of three churches, three caves and three baptismal pools, with a protection wall around the hill. Two entrances were used to access the site from the south and from the west. Orthodox monks between the 12th and 19th centuries later occupied the top of the hill.

Further excavations under the damaged floor of the northeastern pool revealed a well, circular in shape on top and built of well-cut sandstone ash-lars. There are no remains of lime or plaster covering the inner sides, which leads us to think that the well was built at the level of the water table of the nearby spring. The recovered pottery and other material from the well date from the early Roman to late Byzantine periods.

The church had a monastic community attached to it. Excavations have revealed the foundations of arches, walls and partly preserved mosaic and marble floor *in situ*. Pottery, coins, marble fragments, and roof tiles were among the findings.

The discovered remains represent and fit the descriptions of the ancient pilgrims who passed through this area on their way from Jerusalem to Mount Nebo. This discovery clarifies all doubts as to the exact location of the church that was built on the eastern side of the Jordan River to commemorate the sacred event of the Baptism.

Site no. 6 (the Lura)

Not far from Tall al-Kharrār, at a distance of 300m to the west on the edge of Wādī al-Kharrār, some architectural remains were discovered. They consist of a small structure with foundations built of local fieldstones, and upper courses built of mud brick. Wooden beams were used to roof the structure, which was evidently used by monks as a *lura*.

Site no. 7

The systematic excavations to the south of Tall al-Kharrār uncovered several buildings such as a prayer hall, chapels and a water system. The prayer hall is a rectangular structure built of undressed field stones, located at the southeastern corner of Tall al-Kharrār. A white mosaic pavement covered the floor. The manner of construction and location support the suggestion that the structure functioned as a prayer hall or chapel for Christians. Material recovered from the excavations date the structure to the late Roman period, with a few early Roman pottery sherds.

The Pottery

The aim of this article is to study the pottery, whether intact vessels or sherds, that were discov-

ered during the 1997-2000 seasons of excavations at the Baptism site.

The study will focus on description, typological with chronological sequences and parallel examples from the surroundings and nearby areas.

The early Roman pottery concentrated mainly in sites no. 7 and 8, while other scattered pottery sherds were recovered at other sites along the southern bank of Wādī al-Kharrār. The presented assemblage was spread out along Wādī al-Kharrār for a distance of around two kilometers.

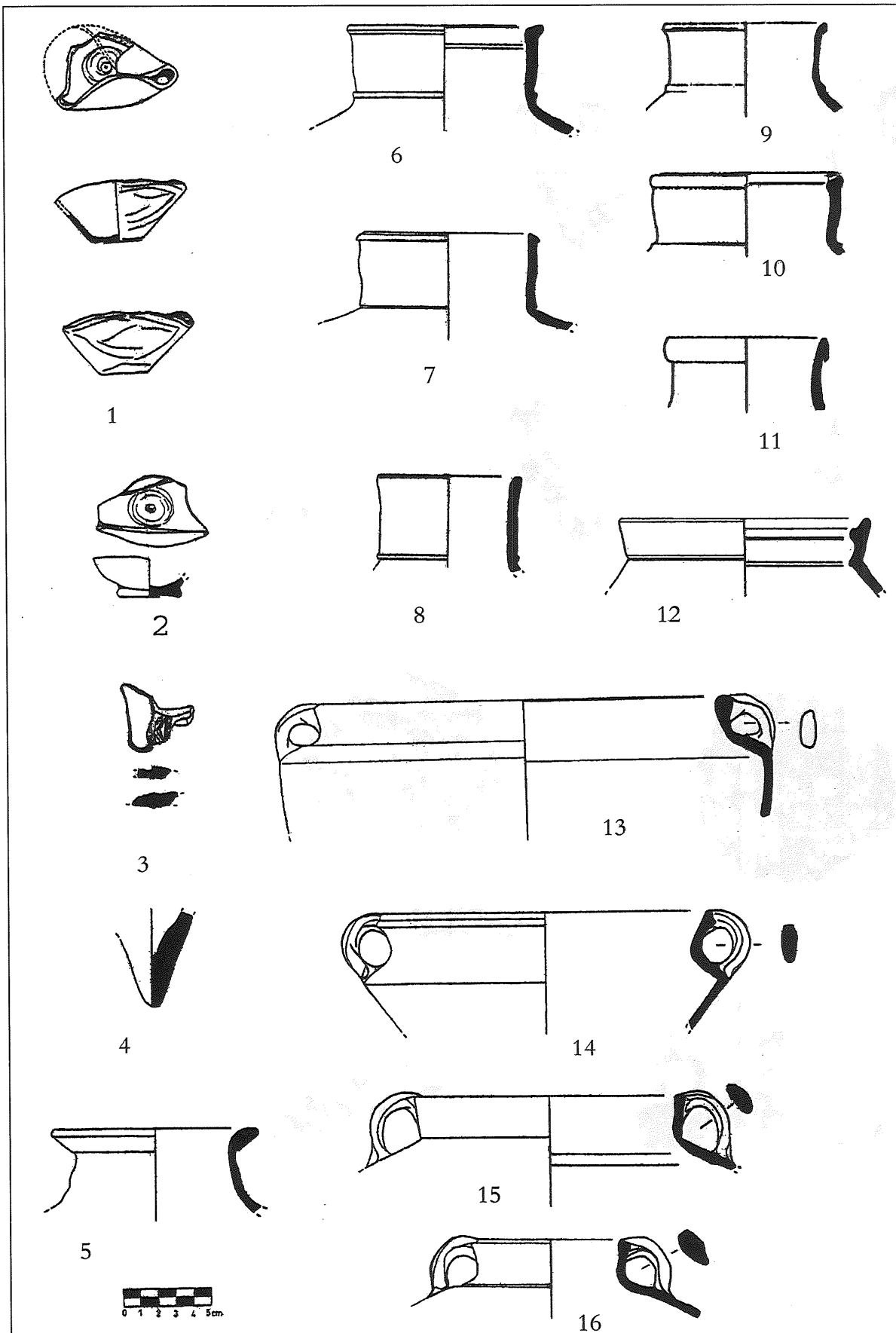
The Occupational Phases

- 1- Late Ottoman period. The monastic buildings include a late Islamic cemetery on the summit of Tall al-Kharrār and vicinity (end of the 19th century).
- 2- Middle Islamic period (MIs I, Crusader and Ayyubid/Mamluk AD 1070-1200), represented at sites no. 3 and 8 (very little evidence).
- 3- Early Islamic (EIs I-II-III; Umayyad, Abbasid and Fatimid periods AD 661-900), represented at sites no. 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
- 4- Byzantine period: A-Late Byzantine, phases II-III (ca. AD 520-640), represented in all sites. B-Early Byzantine, phase IV (ca. AD 480-520) represented at sites no. 3, 6, 7 and 8.
- 5- Roman period: A-Late Roman, phase I (till the end of second century AD), represented at sites no. 7 and 8. B- Pre and early Roman, phase I (ca. 100 BC- AD 73).

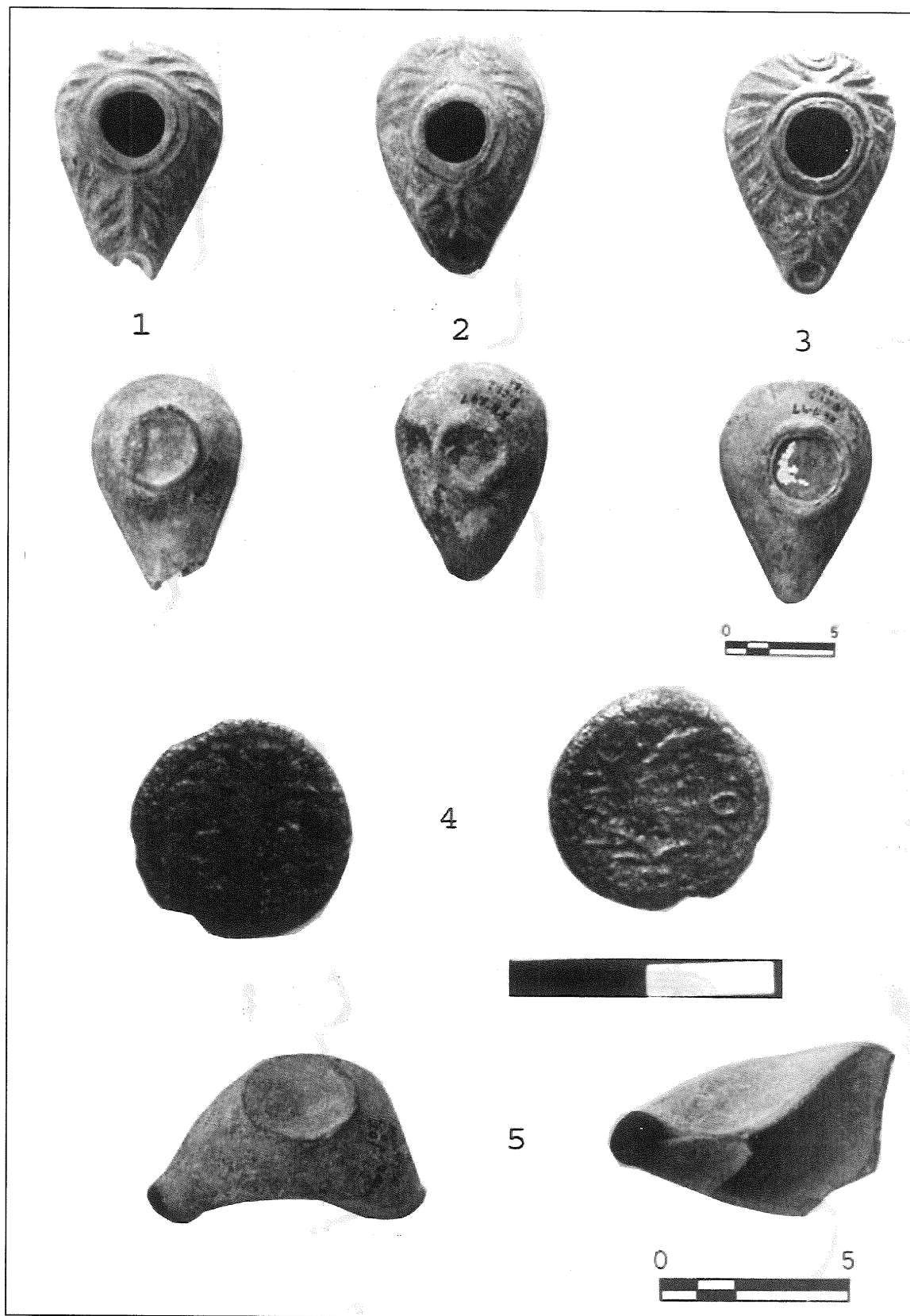
Catalogue

First: The earliest cultural remains, Item 5, Roman pottery A and B (note: C. C2.1 C = area, C2 = square no., 1 = locus no.).

- 1- Lamps. C.C2 balks. Site no. 8 Tall al-Kharrār field no. 201: small bowl pinched by fingers so as to makes nozzle; 7cm in length, 3.5cm height. Fine ware, red core (2.5YR 4/6) good firing, string-cut base, 1st century BC pre-Roman (Late Hellenistic). **Figs. 2:1-2; 3:5.**
- 2- Vertical jar necks ending with ridge. B.C 2. The well, site no. 8 Tall al-Kharrār field no. 275, and sites no. 7. 10cm diameter. Rough surface with small white grits, wedge rim in section some of it closed by mud, grayish to dark core (10YR 2/1). Early Roman phase I. **Fig. 2:6-11.**
- 3- Fragments of stone cups. C.F17.4 site no. 7 field no. 249 (the single chapel south of the *tall*), clean chalk deposit, easy to cut, simple round rim with one straight spout, rectangular handle scraped by knife which appears as a system of carving decor. Cups: 11cm diameter, 12.4cm deep, 3cm straight spout, and from 0.8-1cm

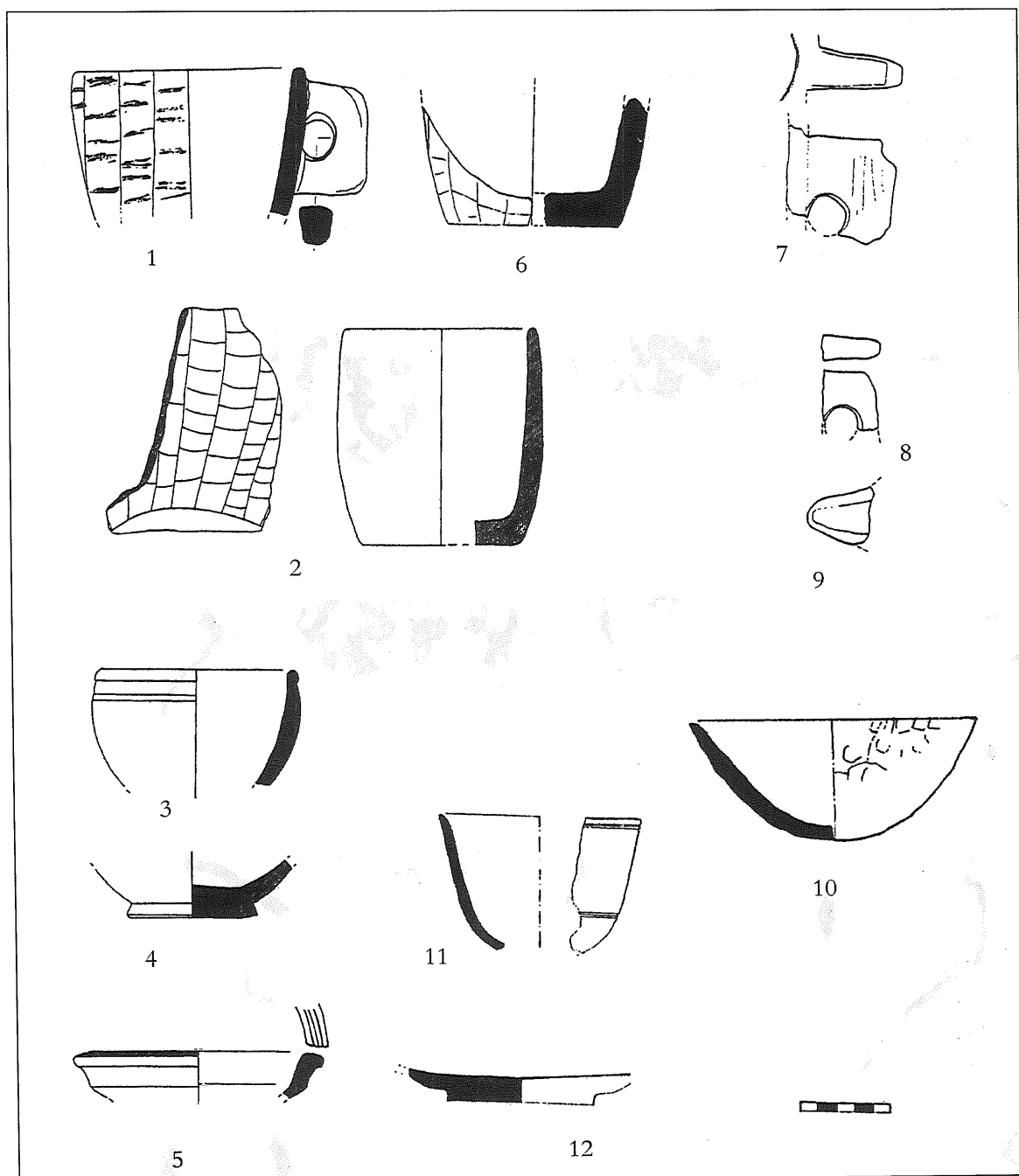


2. Pre-ER/ER I.



thick. There are other stone fragments of bowls, vats or mortars and small cups. **Fig. 4:1-6.** Bowls: everted walls with two regular incised lines on the rim, and similar lines above the disc

base. Fine finishing at body, 15.2cm diameter, 8cm height. **Fig. 4:7-11.** Vat or mortar: has the same design as the cups, simple rim and irregular body. 28cm diameter, 13cm height. **Fig.**



4. ERI.

4:12. This clean chalk helps in producing such vessels (**Fig. 4:1-12**), 1st century BC. In B.C.2, the well has more than one fragment of this fabric. They may be measuring cups. The example on **Fig. 6:1**, because it is heavy and of one spout, may be ritual.

4- Sherds of open cooking pots. C.I18.2 site no. 7 field no. 248, short vertical neck with ear handle, carinated body, fine ware red core (10YR 4/6), very good firing. 23.5cm diameter. Pre-Roman. **Figs. 2:13, 14; 5: 11, 14.**

5- Globular juglets. B.C2:2., site no. 7 field no. 189. 2.7cm diameter, thin ware with creamy sur-

face, sharp loop handle attached the folded rim, red core (2.5YR 4/8), common in early Roman.

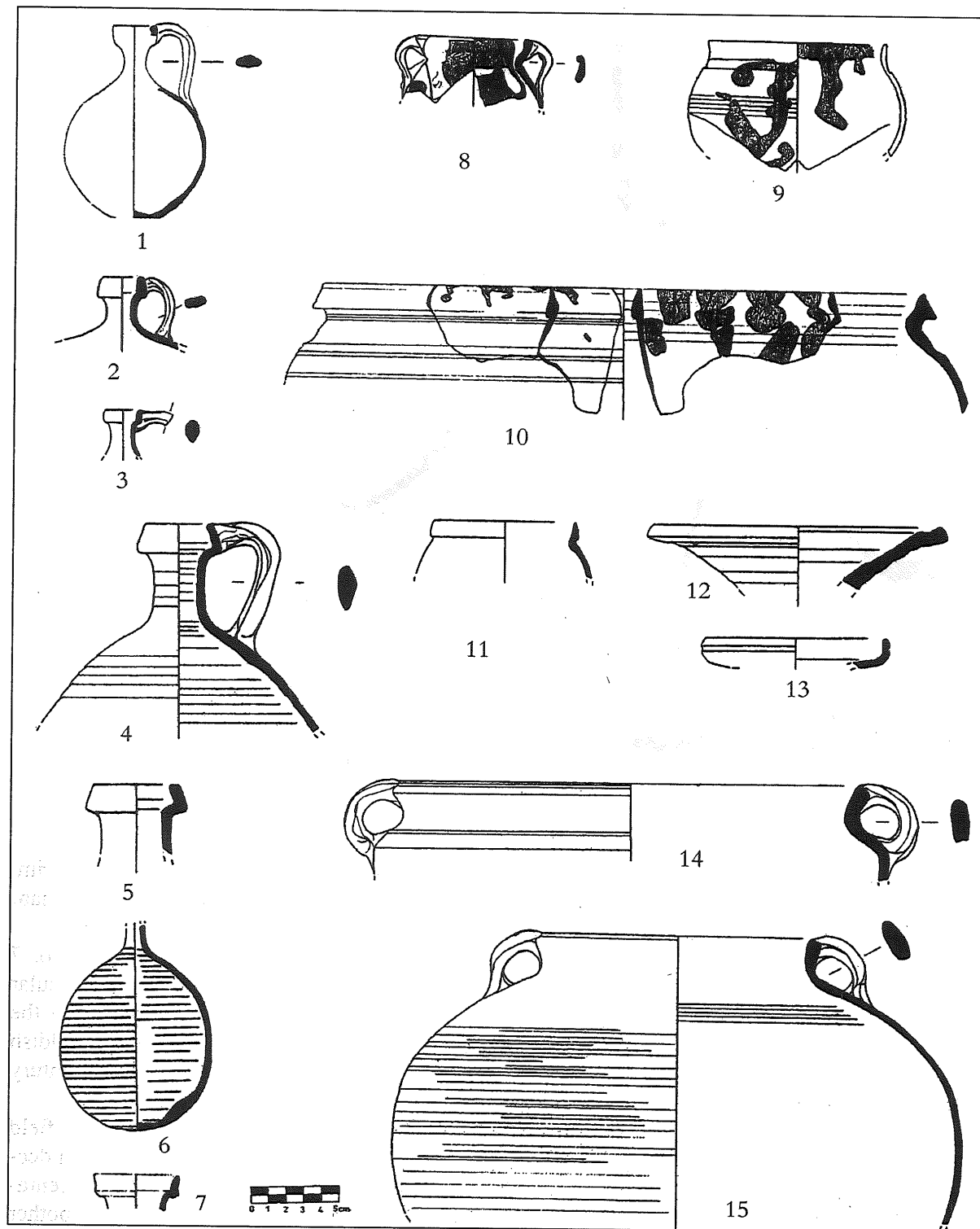
Figs. 5:1-7; 6:5

6- Sherds of Herodian lamps. C.H18.3 site no. 7 field no. 225 and C.F17.1 field no. 245, circular body, some have incised line adjacent to the nozzle, looks round base, fine ware, reddish brown core (5YR 6/4), the end of 1st century BC. **Fig. 7:1-8.**

7- Sherd of moulded lamp. C.H 14.4 site no. 7 field no. 232, fragment of black ware lamp with decorated nozzle (10YR 2/1), imported, 2nd century BC. Hellenistic. **Fig. 2:3** (there is another

- sherds, with two nozzles).
- 8- Rim of a small pot/bowl. C.J 17.2 site no. 7 field no. 237. 8cm diameter, thin ware, ER fabric, first half of the 1st century AD, elongated wedge rim in section, splash red paint inside the pot, light red core (2.5YR 6/8). Similar to that were found in cistern B.C 2. **Fig. 5:8-13.**
- 9- Oil lamp. C.J 19.2. site no. 7 field no. 222 (the single chapel south of the *tall*), 10cm length,

- 4.2cm height, fan impression, two central circles around the filling hole, elongated nozzle, fine inclusions, and reddish brown core (5YR 4/6). L.R. the end of first century AD. **Fig. 7:9.**
- 10- Broken moulded lamp. C.II4.2 site no. 7 field no. 220. 3.4cm height, fan impression around the oil mouth, fragile body, the upper part is rounded in shape, pale brown core (10YR 7/3). Red splash paints, first half of 1st century AD.

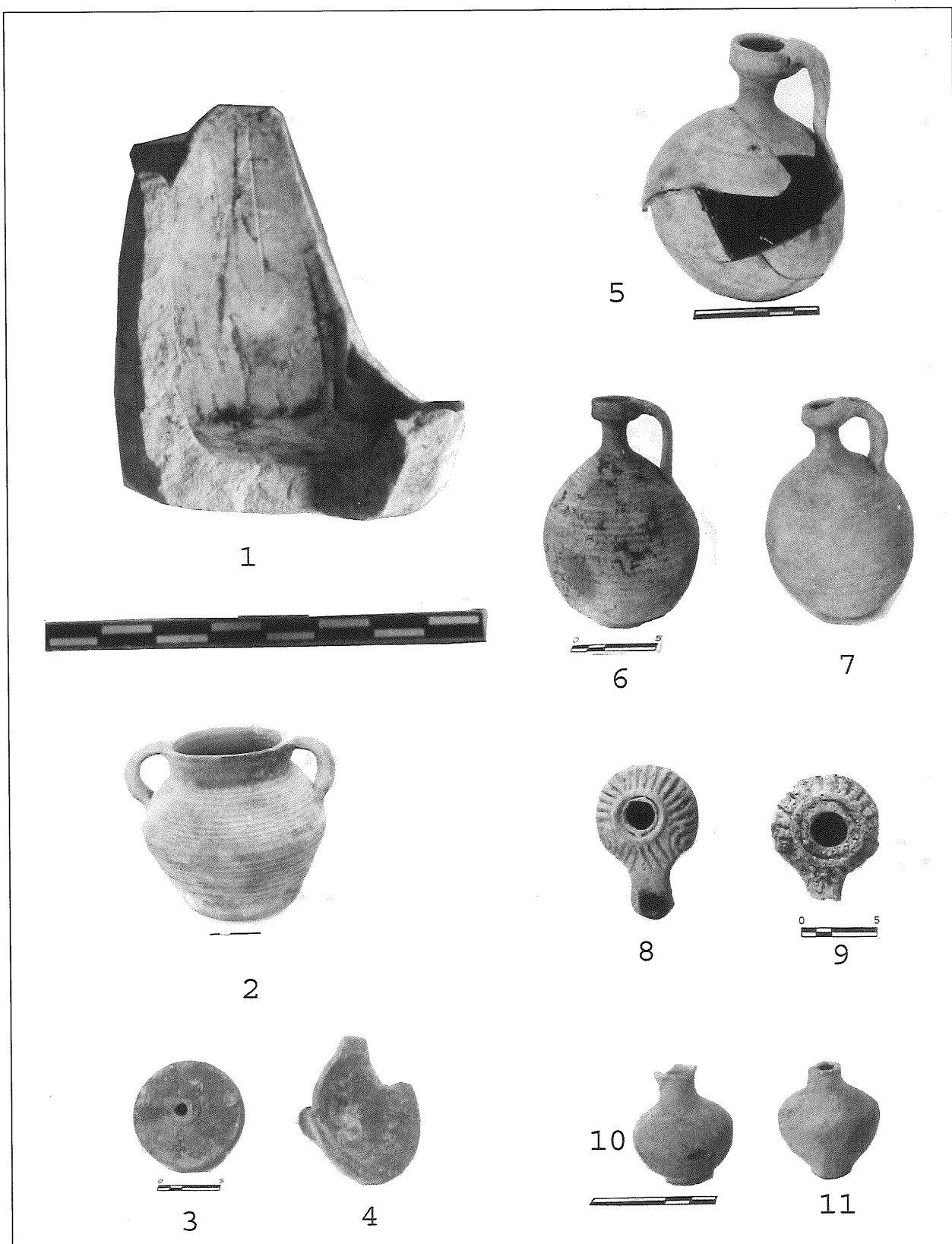


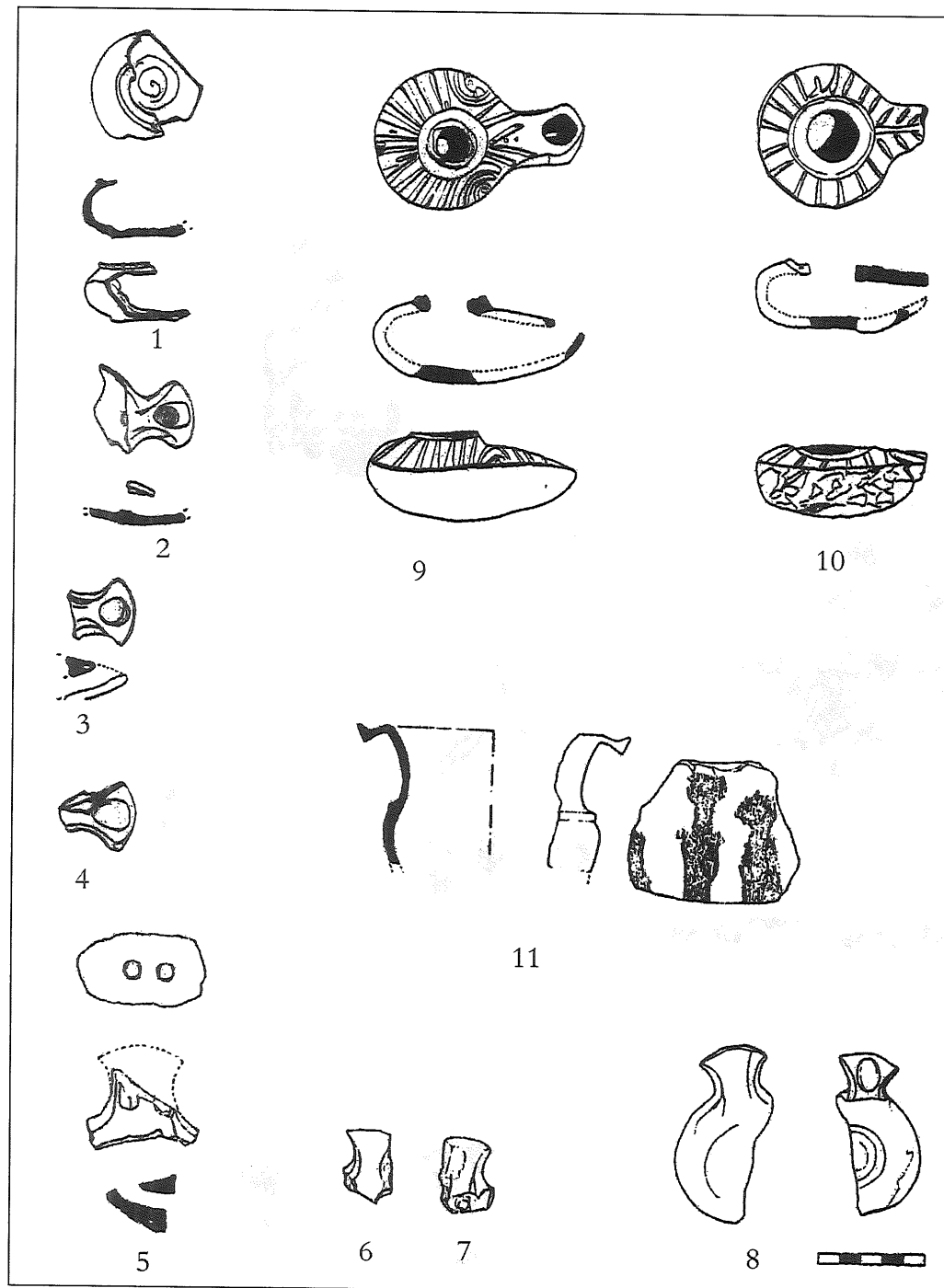
Figs. 6:8, 9; 7:10.

- 11- High stump base of amphora, spindle bottle A. E1 west of surround wall, site no. 8 field no. 227 (Tall al-Kharrār), fine light red core (2.5YR 6/8), faint string cut base, first century

AD. Fig. 8:1, 2.

- 12- Rim with small loop handle of cooking pot. A.A2. site no. 8 field no. 231. Short everted neck, fine ware 10YR 4/6. 15cm diameter. L. Roman. **Fig. 8:5.**



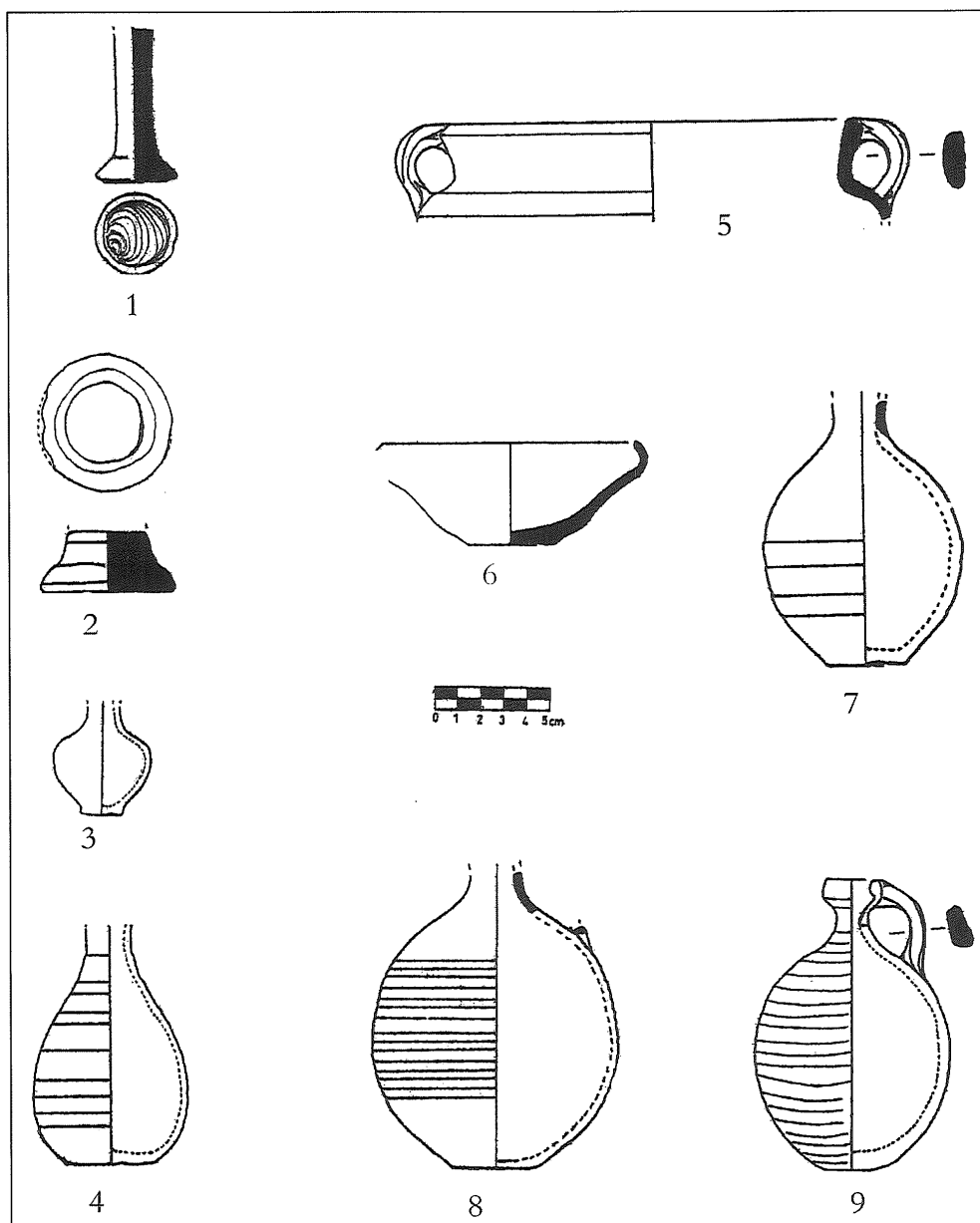


7. ERI-LRI.

- 13- Sherd of open cooking pot. B.C2 the well, site no. 8 field no. 279, carinated body, fine thin ware 10YR 4/6. 22cm diameter. Early Roman. **Figs. 2:15, 16; 5:14, 15.**
- 14- Rim of a small bowl. C.F17: 1, site no. 7 field no. 242, fine and thin ware. Splash red paint on both sides 2.5YR 4/6. 10cm diameter. Early Roman. **Fig. 5:8, 9.**
- 15- Neck with handle of a small jar, fine and thin ware, and splash red paint on both sides 2.5YR 4/6. 6.5cm diameter. Early Roman. **Fig. 7:11.**
The best parallels had been found at Khirbat

Qumrān (Lapp 1961), related to the first century BC. Early Roman sherds are abundant in some patches, inside the well on the summit of Tall al-Kharrār and on site no. 7 area C, south of the *tall*, also in the surveys near Wādī Ḥisbān (Ibach 1987). This phase of occupation is attested at Machaerus (Loffreda 1981; Corbo and Loffreda 1996), and Central Moab (Brown 1991). The ridges at the bottom of jar necks were common in the beginning of first century AD, Sauer (1973; 1994) gave accurate dates for the Hellenistic and early Roman pottery.

Some early Roman pottery has also been pub-



8. ERI-LR I.

lished from Khirbat al-Mukhayyat (Saller and Bagatti 1949; Alliata 1988).

Unstratified early Roman pottery had been found on the *tall*, in less than half a meter of debris mixed with very few late Hellenistic pottery sherds and one coin. Ceramics include red wares, shallow ribbed and elongated jars and juglets (Fig. 6:6, 7, 10, 11). The best examples came from Khirbat Qumrān Lapp (1961), 'Ayn Jidi/Ein Gadi (Hirchfeld 2000) and az-Zāra (Strobel and Clamer 1986). In case we had more details about the 31 BC earthquake, we can know why there are no Roman structure except for the pools and paths on both sides of the *tall*. The mound was also cleaned up in the Byzantine period.

The various pottery types presented here are a special group, including close and perfect parallels

to the local group that had been dated in general from late second century BC to the end of the first century AD. The coin found at site no. 7 area C.E4.2, D.D1.2, C.F 14.2 is Herodian — obv: an ear of barley with a round inscription (KAICAROC); rev: palm tree with two bunches of fruit, and the reign year L, S (AD 9-11) (Fig. 2:4).

The pottery recovered from Tall al-Kharrār fits into both the local and regional assemblages. We believe that there was a small settlement somewhere around the *tall*, and the well in B.C2 was built in the late part of the fifth century AD — we found that one course comes up of the bottom of the ritual pool, which was partitioned into two parts. In fact, the earlier material dumped into the well dates to the sixth-seventh centuries AD. We also found many sherds from the late Hellenistic/

early Roman periods mixed with the other occupational periods.

Second: Item 4 includes Byzantine pottery (E. Byz. IV-L. Byz.). Pottery sherds represent two phases of local occupational levels in this region, from the end of the fifth till the middle of the seventh century AD. The majority of the pottery related to this period was used by monks who settled in the region and constructed cells, chapels, churches and monasteries.

This group was recovered at the western side of Tall al-Kharrār, site no. 6, which has a room with a flagstone pavement and several domestic installations, from where we recovered a complete cooking pot and two slipper lamps (A.C2.4). The northern portion of the flagstone pavement was destroyed and replaced by a beaten earth floor, while the southern sector was covered by *huwwar*. This occupational phase might have come to an end as a result of the earthquake in AD 551, judging by the collapse found inside the room. Pottery in this house came from a few loci, and a pit was identified below the floor.

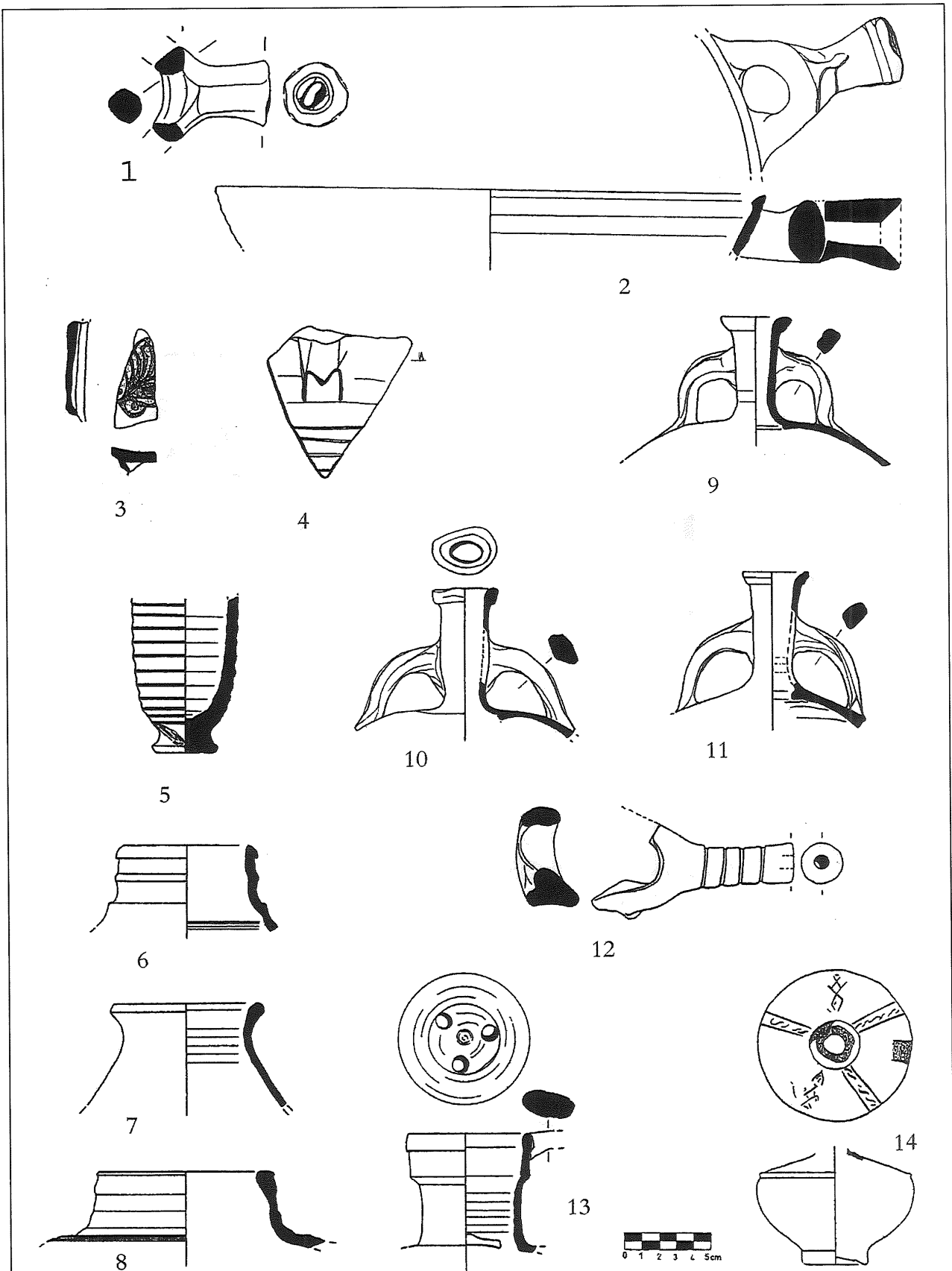
The great number of recovered sherds were found distributed at all sites of the al-Kharrār Valley. This settled area belonged to the founders of the monastic installations. Jericho was the center of this route at that time, so most of the pottery sherds — especially from sites no. 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 — are related to the Khirbat al-Mafjar ceramic assemblage (Baramki 1944), and belong to the “Levant ware”.

Some “imitation wares” are represented here and are usually dated to around the first half of the sixth century AD (North African wares and Jarash bowls). These wares appear at several sites, for example Jarash, Pella, Khirbat al-Mukhayyat and Nebo. There are also bowls with rouletted surfaces on red slip ware. This ware was imported, because all the other types had sand and quartz inclusions coming from the main soil in the Jordan Valley. Cooking pots have triangular rims in section with small vertical loop handles, and reflect the seasonal domestic life in these hermitage cells. The dark orange ware is common, with quantities of sand and calcite inclusions. This ware goes back to the Late Roman period (Watson 1992; Magness 1993). Ribbing is common and started from the shoulder of the vessel, which have rounded shapes (Watson 1992).

1- Casserole: C.D3.1 site no. 7, field no. 138, sandwich core, dark reddish gray (2.5YR 3/3). B.B3.2 site no. 7, field no. 223, angular rim; 31cm diameter, very small white grits, reddish brown (5YR 5/4). A.E3.3 site no. 8, field no.

210; hollow handle, spiral incised surface, small white grits, reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) E. Byz. III-IV. **Fig. 9:1, 2, 12.**

- 2- Bowl: A, A4. 4 site no. 7, field no. 211, base, North African ware, red slipware (RSW), light red (2.5YR 6/8). E. Byz. III-IV. **Fig. 9:3.**
- 3- Inscribed body sherd of jar. C.D2. out of surrounded wall, west side, site no. 7 field no. 226, ribbed, the inscribed letter “M” could be Maria; fine ware, reddish gray (10YR 5/2). E. Byz. III-IV. **Figs. 9:4; 10:6.**
- 4- Jug: A, A5. site no. 8, field no. 319, strong cut base, ribbed body, and irregular shape, light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4). E. Byz. IV. **Fig. 9:5.**
- 5- Cooking pots: A.CL.3 site no. 6 field no. 32, wedge rim in section, ribbing on body, 7cm diameter, red (2.5YR 5/5). E. Byz. III-IV. **Figs. 6:2; 9:6, 7, 8.** Parallels: Mount Nebo (Alliata 1986: figs. 8, 6-12); Hisbān (Sauer 1973: figs. 2:85-88); Dhībān (Tushingham 1972: figs. 5:35; 9:1-5).
- 6- Flasks: C.B5.1 site no. 7 field no. 78, pilgrim flask, folded-out rim, 2.5cm diameter, slipped and twisted loop handles, red (2.5YR 5/8). E. Byz. III-IV. **Fig. 9:9, 10, 11.** Parallels: Pella (Walmsley *et al.* 1993: fig. 20:1).
- 7- Jug: A.A1.2, site no. 6. field no. 125, neck of strainer jug, folded-out rim, 8cm diameter, few inclusions, reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4). E. Byz. III. **Fig. 9:13.**
- 8- Juglet: C.D2.2, site no. 7 field no. 7,191, broken neck with handle, carinated shoulder and divided into three zones by incised lines forming fish-like shapes, North African ware, red (2.5YR 5/6). E. Byz III-IV. **Figs. 6:3; 9:14.**
- 9- Cooking pot: C.A3.2 site no. 7 field no. 26, neck with rim, everted, 9.5cm diameter, with loop handle, ribbing on body, dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4). E. Byz. III-IV. **Fig. 11:1, 3, 4, 6.** Parallels: Mādabā (Harrison 1994: fig. 4:6-7); Hisbān (Sauer 1973: figs. 2:85-88, 3:104-7); ‘Ayūn Mūsā (Bagatti 1985: figs. 3:12, 4:14).
- 10- Bowl: A.A3.2, site no. 6 field no. 27, cross impression on body sherd, cultic purpose (RSW), reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4). E. Byz. III-IV. **Figs. 10:7; 11:7.**
- 11- Lid: C.B1.2 site no. 7 field no. 68, angular rim, ribbing on body, 20cm diameter, red (2.5YR 4/8). E. Byz IV. **Fig. 11:8-10.** Parallels: ‘Ayūn Mūsā (Alliata 1990: fig. 1:14-16); Mādabā (Harrison 1993: fig. 3:3-4, 7); Hisbān (Sauer 1973: figs. 2:91-92, 3:109-110).
- 12- Jug fragment: A.E2, 2. site no. 8 field no. 274, folded-out rim, ribbing on body, grayish brown (2.5Y 5/2). E. Byz. IV-L. Byz. I. A.E1.3 site no. 8, handles of casserole. E. Byz. III-IV. **Fig.**

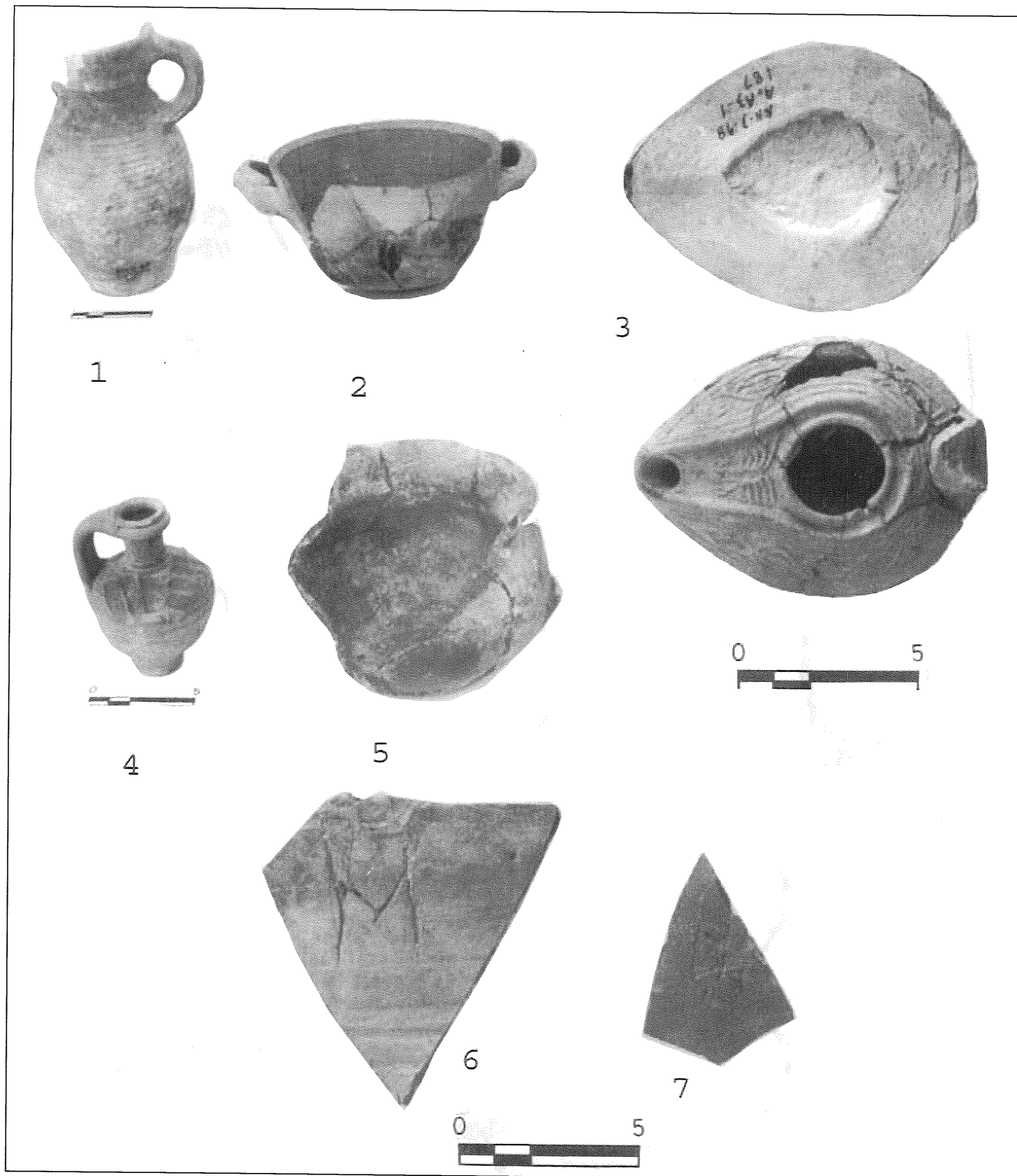


9. EByz IV.

11:12, 13.

13- Plate: C.D2.4, site no. 8 field no. 71, everted

rim, 2cm diameter, burnished surface, sandwich core, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6). E. Byz

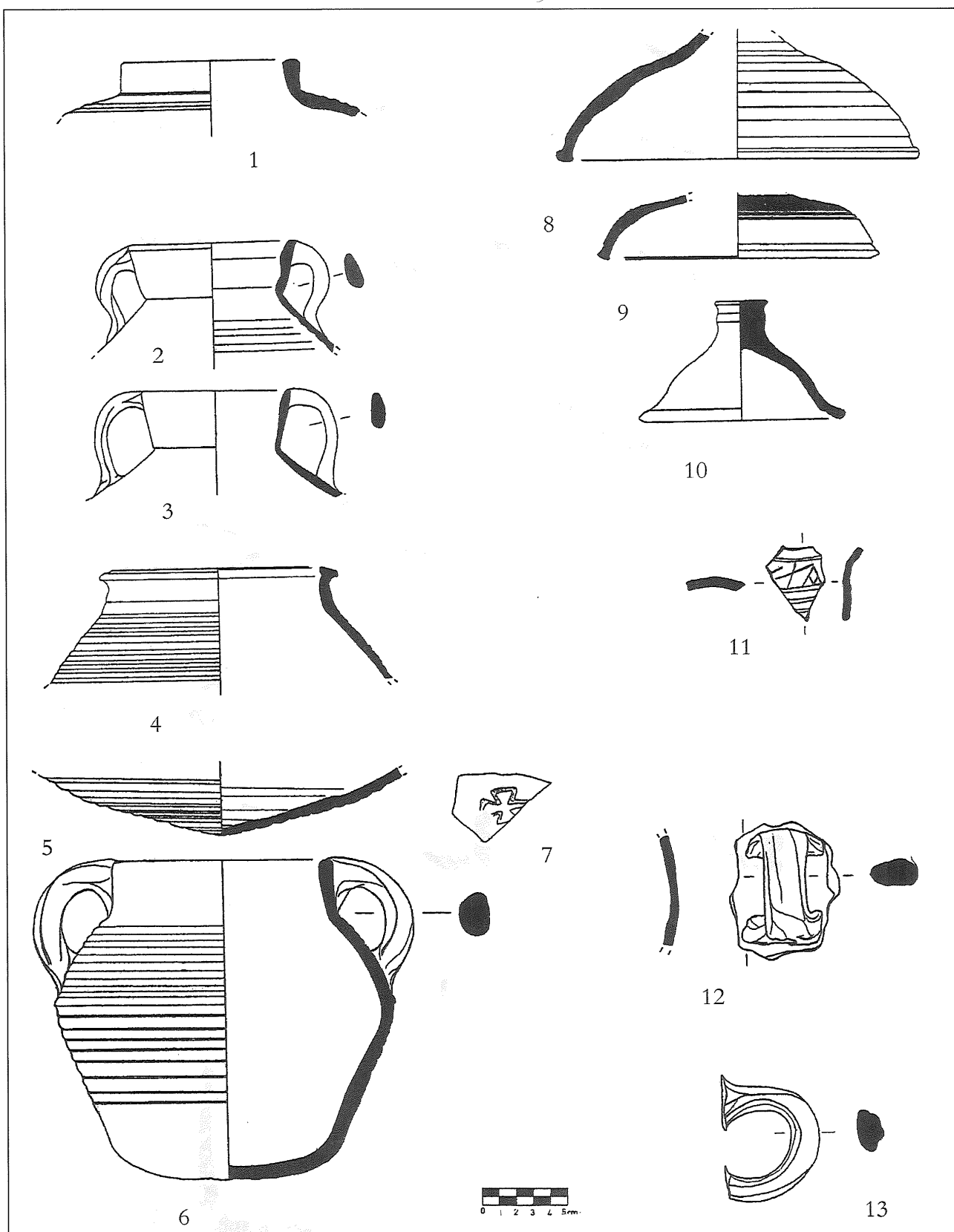


10.

III. Fig. 12:1, 2.

- 14- Bowl: A.E4.2, site no. 8 field no. 209, everted rim, fine inclusions, 29cm diameter, red (2.5YR 4/8). E. Byz. III. **Fig. 12:4.**
- 15- Ring base of jar: A.C4.1, site no. 8 field no. 6, slipped, sandwich cores, reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4). E. Byz. III-IV. **Fig. 12:3.**

- 16- Stopper jar: A.E1.3, site no. 8 field no. 45, knob in the inner center of the basin-like handle, 4cm diameter, light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4). E. Byz. IV. **Fig. 12:5, 10.** Parallels: Mount Nebo (Shneider 1950: fig. 14:5); Mādabā (Harrison 1994: fig. 6:14-15).
- 17- Oil lamp: E.D2.W. Balk, site no. 7 field no.

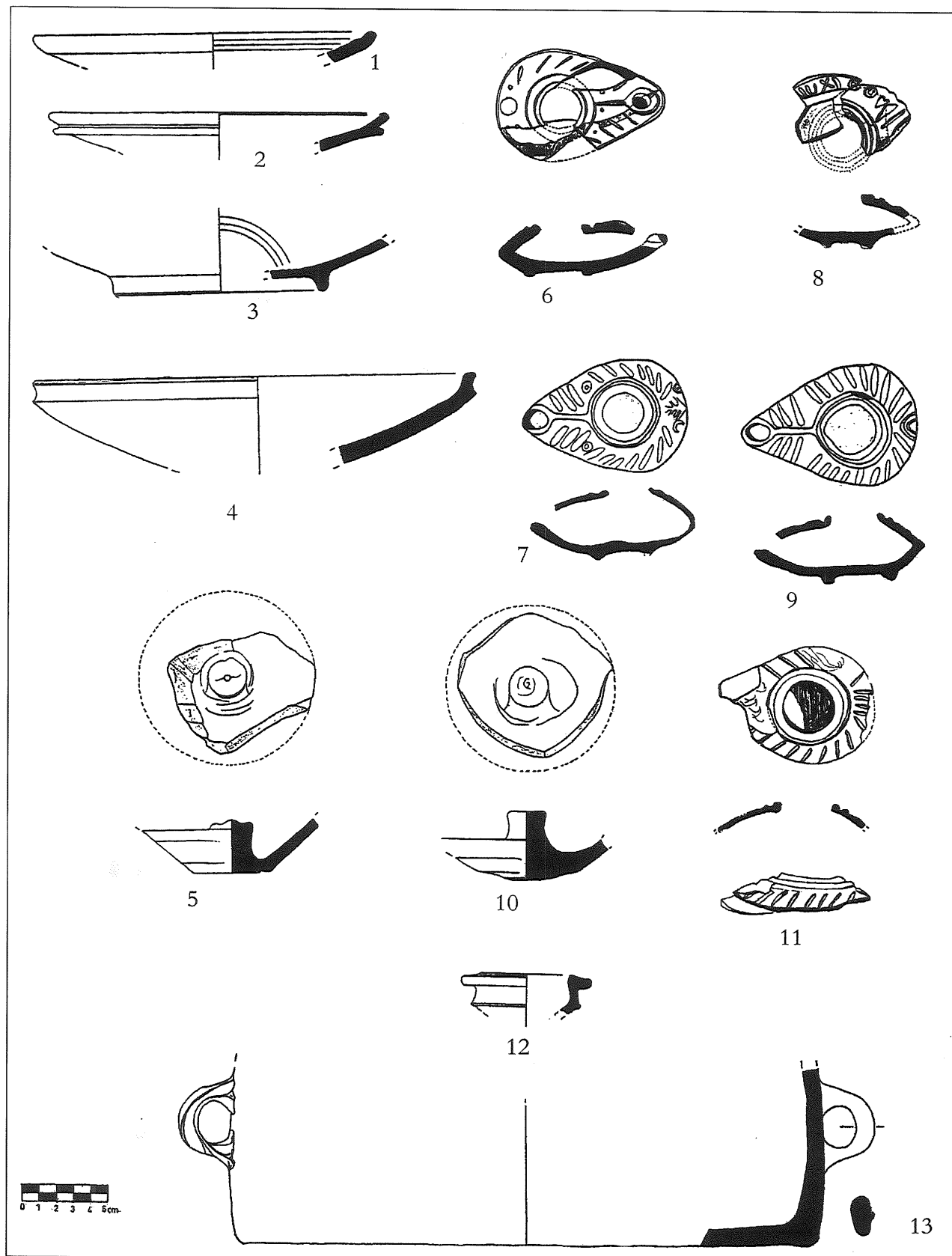


11. EByz IV.

208, molded lamp, channel extended from mouth to nozzle, decor with relief lines and circles instead of handles, fine ware, round base,

yellowish brown (10YR 5/4). E. Byz. IV. **Fig. 12:6, 8.**

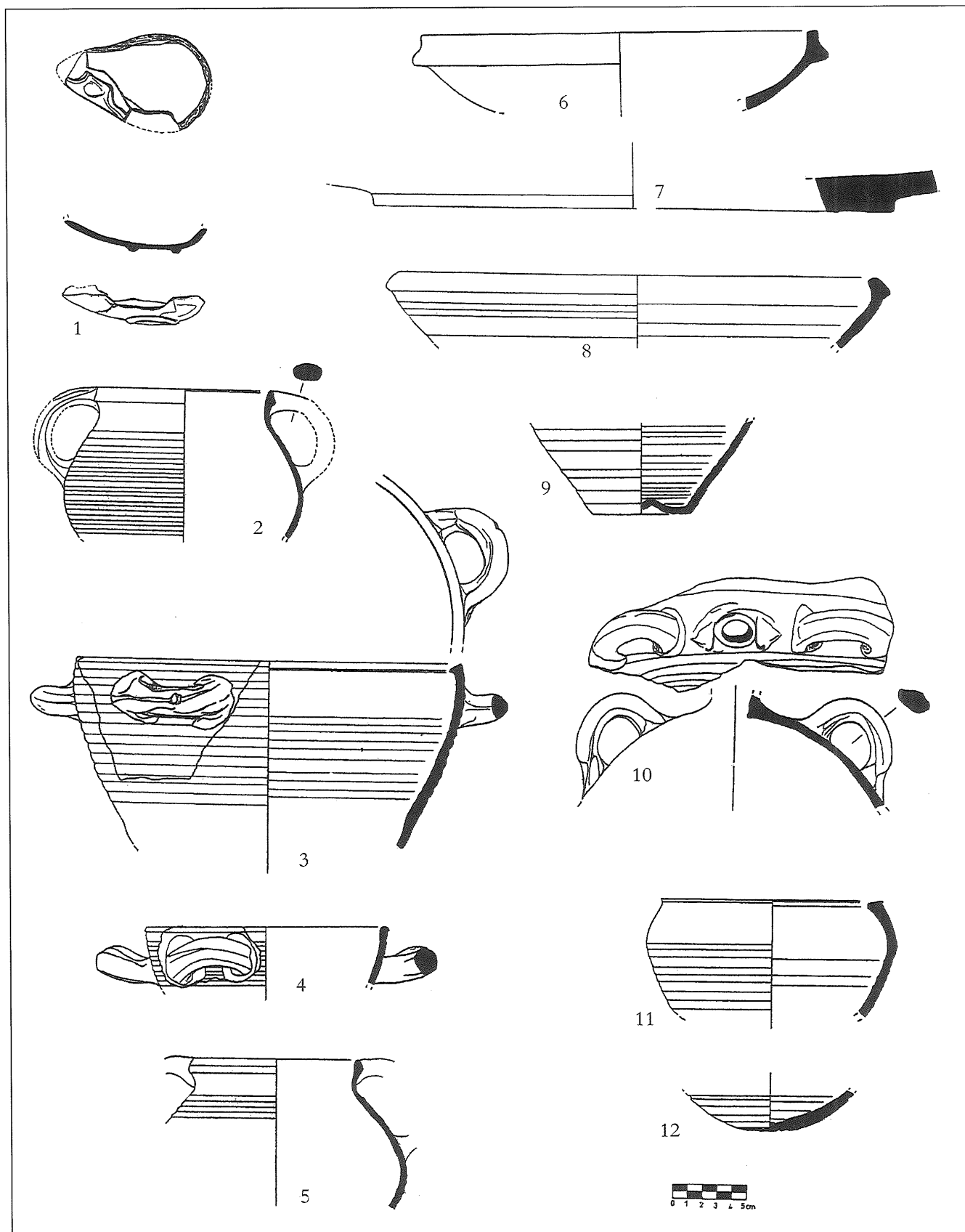
18- Oil lamp: B.C1.2, site no. 7 field no. 185, oval



12. EByz IV-LByz I.

shape, 4cm high, 8cm long, slipped and low ring base, grayish brown (2.5YR 5/2). E. Byz III-IV. Figs. 2:1-3; 12:7, 9-11. Parallels:

Mādabā (Alliata 1982: fig. 11:50; Piccirillo 1993); Ḥisbān (Sauer 1973: fig. 3:126). 19- Jug: A.B1.2, site no. 6 field no. 93, flattened



13. LByz III.

rim, slipped, brown core (7.5YR 5/4). E. Byz.
III. Fig. 12:12.

20- Basin: A.C2, site no. 6 field no. 179, flat base,
hand-made, twisted handles, fine inclusions,

pale yellow core (2.5YR 7/4). E. Byz. IV-L. Byz I. **Fig. 12:13**.

- 21- Cooking pots: A.A3.2, site no. 6 field no. 192, globular body, 11cm diameter, triangular rim in section, grayish brown (10YR 5/2) E. Byz. IV-L. Byz I. A.A, 2 site no. 6 field no. 130, horizontal handles, 26cm diameter, angular rim, small white grits, red (2.5YR 4/6) L. Byz. II-VI. **Fig. 13:2-5, 9-12**. Parallels: Mādabā (Alliata 1986: fig. 8:14-15); 'Ayūn Mūsā (Alliata 1990: fig. 1:17-19; Ḥisbān (Sauer 1973: figs. 2:90, 3:108); Umm ar-Raṣāṣ (Alliata 1991: fig. 15:7-8).
- 22- Bowl: A. E4, 2, site no. 8 field no. 172, round rim, 32cm diameter, North African ware, red (2.5YR 4/8). E. Byz. IV. **Fig. 13: 6, 8**. Parallels: Mādabā (Harrison 1994: fig. 1:14; Alliata 1982: fig. 11:43-44).
- 23- Basin: A: A5: 3. site no. 3 field no. 152, hand-made and irregular in shape, pale yellow core (2.5YR 7/4). L. Byz. III. **Fig. 13:7**.
- 24- Flask: A.C2.2, site no. 7 field no. 15, fine ware, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6). Parallel: Pella (Walmsley *et al.* 1993: fig. 20:1).

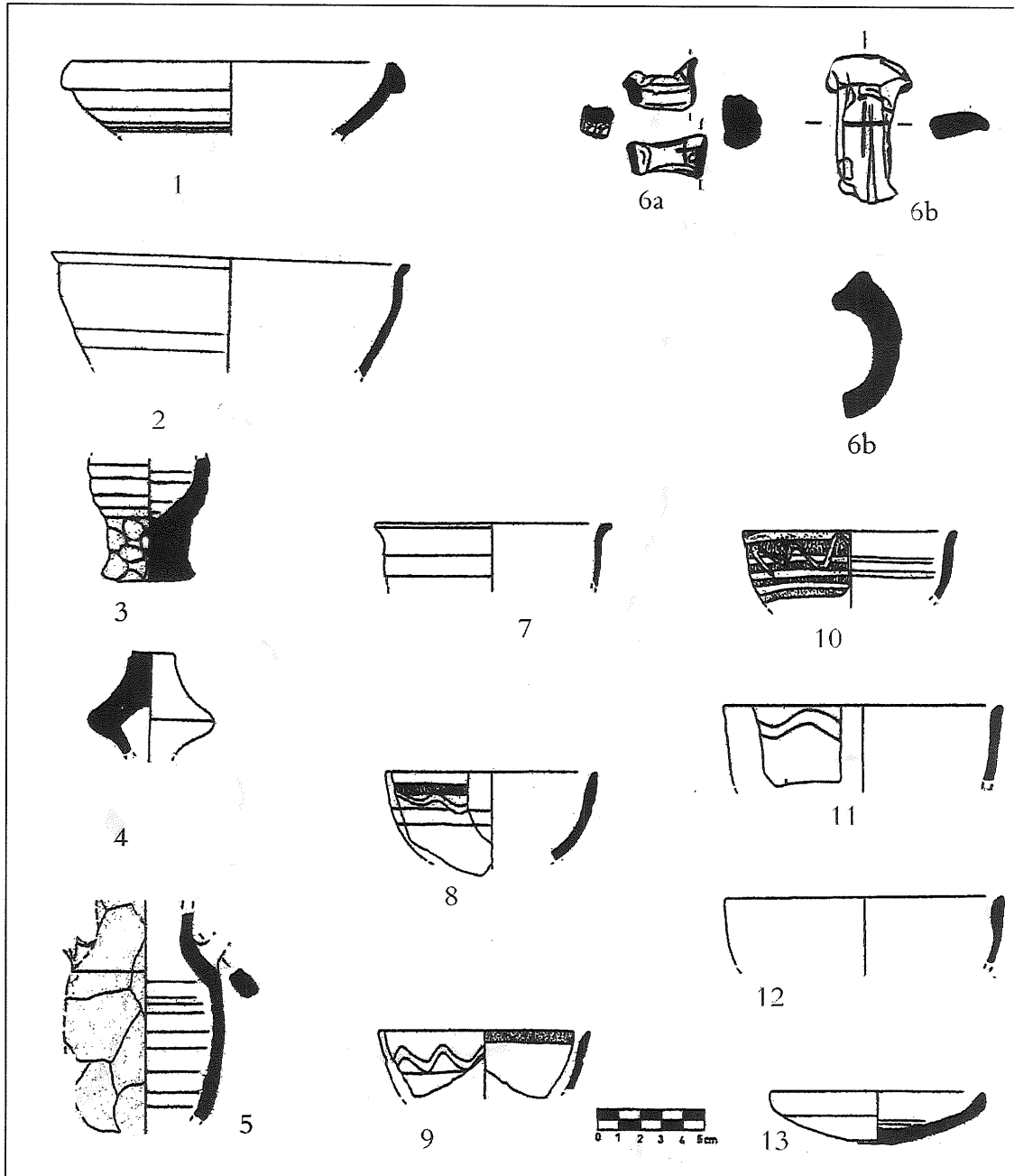
Late Byzantine Pottery: This group seems to be connected with the architectural elements of churches. Pre-Umayyad pottery represented in several loci includes: white paint on a dark ribbed jars, metallic hardness, oval lamps and wavy incised design on jars, bowls and basins. This period is well attested in Jordan, particularly in central areas including the Karak Plateau (Brown 1991), Ḥisbān region (Ibach 1986), Wādī al-Ḥasā (MacDonald 1988) and Jarash (Zayadine 1986). These sites continued during the Umayyad period. The hydraulic plaster of the water system at the site contains red and black potsherds in great density, the pipes and strainers fit within the late Byzantine and early Islamic period (Patrich 1991).

- 1- Basin/Bowl: A.A5.3 site no. 3 field no. 158, inverted rim with sharp edge, 15cm diameter, red slip, yellowish red (5YR 5/6). L. Byz II. **Fig. 14:1, 2**. Parallel: Hendrix *et al.* 1996: fig. 367.
- 2- Jugs: A.A1.4, A.A5.3, site no. 3 field no. 268, 161, short necks, brown core. L. Byz II. **Fig. 14:3, 5**. The turban handle of lid **Fig. 14:4**.
- 3- Handles: B, A3.2 site no. 3 field no. 273, handle of lamp, incised cross with trace of inscription, red ware and fine inclusions. Handle of jug, incised cross on dark core, fine inclusions. L. Byz-Umm. Parallel: Piccirillo 1993.
- 4- Bowl: A E1.3, site no. 8 field no. 41, 46-48, wavy incised line on the hemispherical shape, 10-13cm diameter, with ring base, fine, light

yellowish brown (10YR 6/4). **Fig. 14:8-13**. Parallels: Mādabā (Alliata 1982: fig. 11:38-42); 'Ayūn Mūsā (Alliata 1990: figs. 2:26, 5:77); Umm ar-Raṣāṣ (Alliata 1991: fig. 10:29-30).

Islamic Pottery [A- Early Islamic (EIs. I-III); B-Middle Islamic (Crusader and Ayyubid-Mamluk; MIs)]: The monastic complex of the site might have been reconstructed in the early Islamic period. The excavations indicated the restoration of white mosaic floors, the mosaic of the Rhoterus Church, and the mosaics and marbles of churches at site no. 3. Islamic pottery is abundant in the area: the early Islamic pottery has red-painted designs and this found at most Jordanian sites. But the following periods, Abbasid-Fatimid (AD 750-969) are not as common. Pottery presented here includes reddish-orange ware, and internally glazed ware ("Mefjer ware").

- 1- Juglet: D.A1.2 site no. 8 field no. 190, wide incised decoration on shoulder, strap handle, string-cut base, ridged rim, diameter 2.4cm, fine ware, reddish brown (2.5YR 3/5). EIs. I. **Figs. 10:4; 15:1, 2**. Parallel: Umm ar-Raṣāṣ (Piccirillo 1987).
- 2- Jug: C.D1. Balk, site no. 7 field no. 198, upper part of jug, diameter 6.4cm, ribbed body, loop handle, with faint ridge, few grits, yellowish red core (5YR 5/8). Several other examples. EIs. I. **Figs. 10:1; 15:4, 5, 7-10, 12, 13**.
- 3- Jar: A.C2.3 site no. 6 field no. 34, handle with neck, diameter 8cm, slipped, fine ware, strong brown (7.5YR 5/6). **Fig. 15:10**, also **Fig. 15:7-8** spouted jugs, light red (2.5YR 6/6). EIs. I. Parallels: Umm ar-Raṣāṣ (Alliata 1991: figs. 6:13, 14:3); 'Ayūn Mūsā (Bagatti 1985: figs. 4:16, 6:6).
- 4- Storage jar: A.A1.2, site no. 6 field no. 128, wavy incised lines, brown core (7.5YR 5/4).
- 5- Bowl: A.A5.3, site no. 3 field no. 169, everted rim, band combing, diameter 19.5cm, few grits, reddish yellow core. **Fig. 16:1, 3, 6**.
- 6- Bowl: A.A4.2, site no. 3 field no. 261, red paint inside and on the rim, hemi-spherical shape, white slip under painting, reddish yellow core (5YR 6/6) (Coptic ware). L. Byz./Umayyad. **Fig. 16: 7, 8, 12**.
- 7- Spout and handles of jugs: B.B4.3, site no. 7 field no. 51, light brown (7.5YR 6/4). A.A5.3 site no. 3 field no. 176, elongated loop handle with faint ridge, gray core (7.5YR 5/1). Late Umayyad-Abbasid. **Fig. 16:4, 9, 11**. Parallel: Jarash (Hendrix *et al.* 1997: fig. 44).
- 8- Oil lamp: A: A5.2, site no. 3 field no. 213, oval shape, heavy incised lines on the upper part,



14. LByz III.

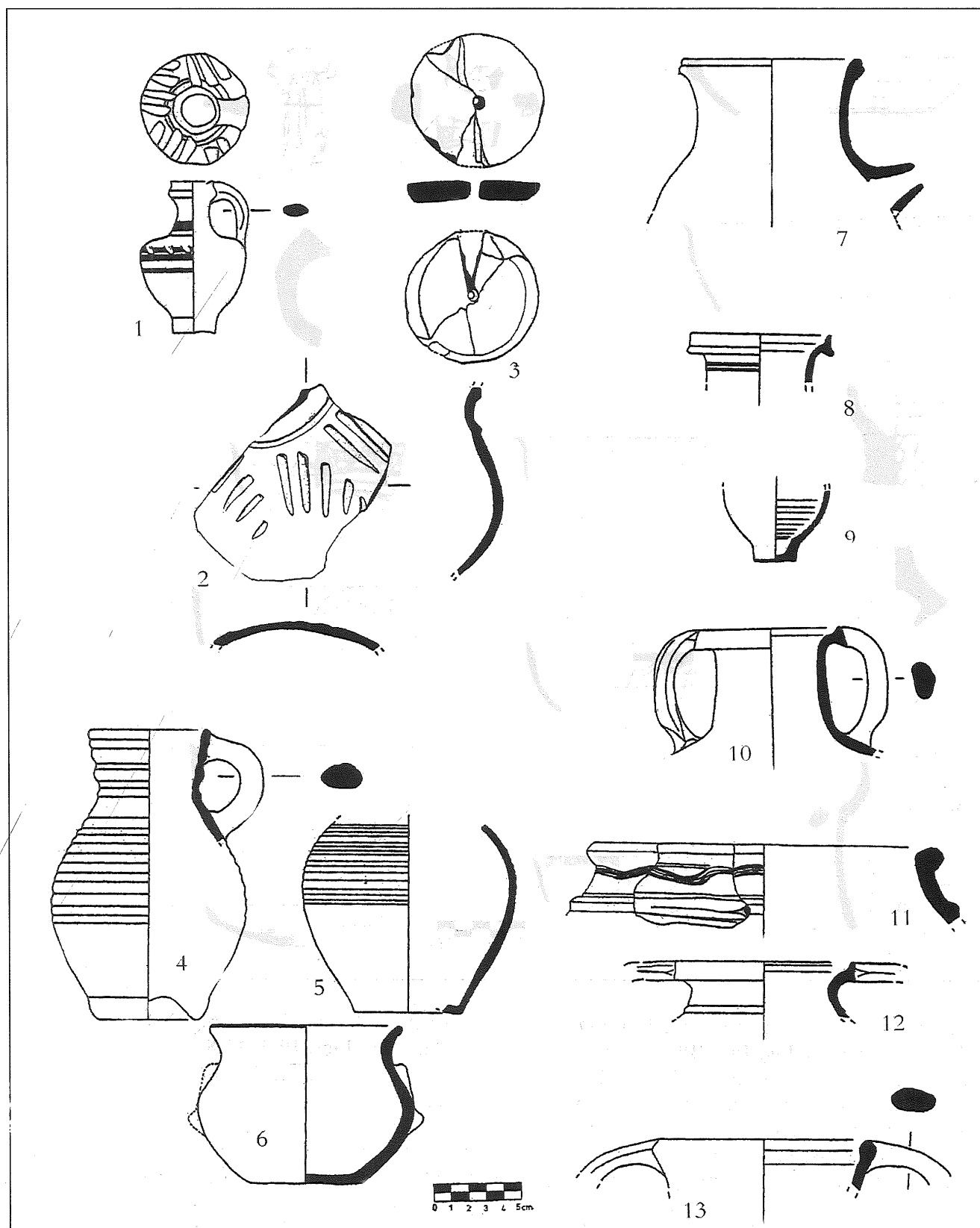
dots around the filling hole, reddish yellow (5YR 6/8). Abbasid. **Fig. 16:5, 10.**

9- Cooking pots: A.A5, site no. 3 field no. 72, 146, 162, 170 and 171; rims of cooking pots, without neck, round and folded-out rims, red ware and glazed from the inside; flat base with ridge from the inside red (2.5YR 5/6); rim of open cooking pot, pinched handle (no. 7) and some have glazed "ear" handles. EIs. III (Fatimid). **Fig. 17:1-7.** Parallel: Khirbat al-Mafjar (Baramki 1944).

10- Oil lamp: A.A3.1 site no. 3 field no. 187, channel nozzle within palm tree in relief design, spiral motives on both sides, ring base like heart in

shape, reddish yellow core (5YR 6/8). EIs. III (Fatimid). **Figs. 10:3; 17:8.**

The evidence of the EIs. III means that Jordan, especially the Jordan Valley, had small villages during that period, although it seems that the major cities were reduced in size during the later part of the Abbasid period. This idea depends on the discoveries at Pella, Jarash, the 'Ammān Citadel and Umm ar-Raṣāṣ. This no doubt has changed our impression about the settlement patterns, especially that no major monuments were discovered in this region, which changed into industrial-agricultural centers and became an important economic part of the Islamic world.

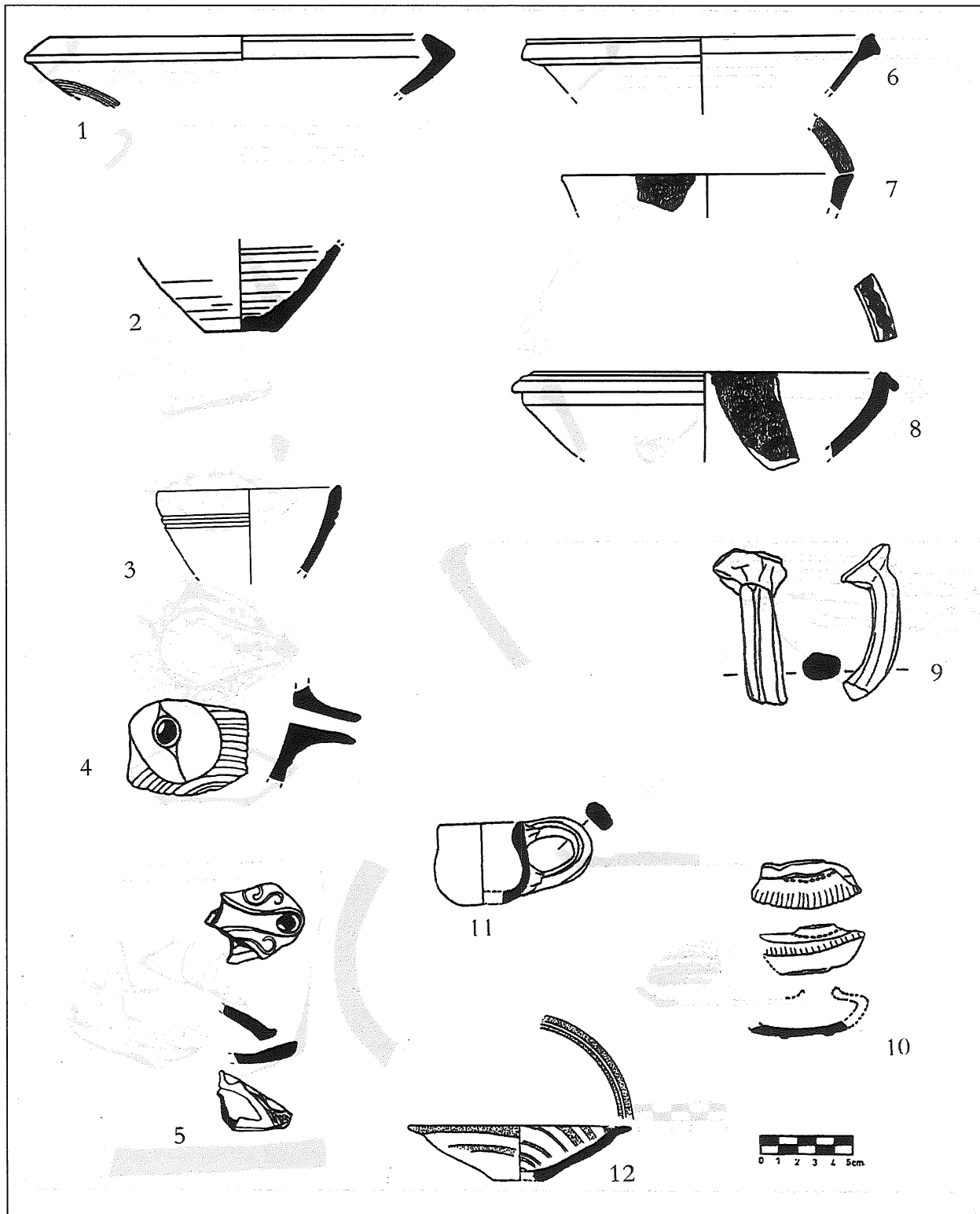


15. *EIsl.*

1- Cooking pot: C.E2.3, field no. 28, short and thick walls, hand-made simple rim, diameter 10.5cm, flat base, coarse ware, greenish black

(10BG 2.5II). Mamluk. Figs. 10:5; 15:6.

2- Pipe: pottery pipe, A.A5.3, site no. 3 field no. 197. inscribed fragment, cursive Arabic without



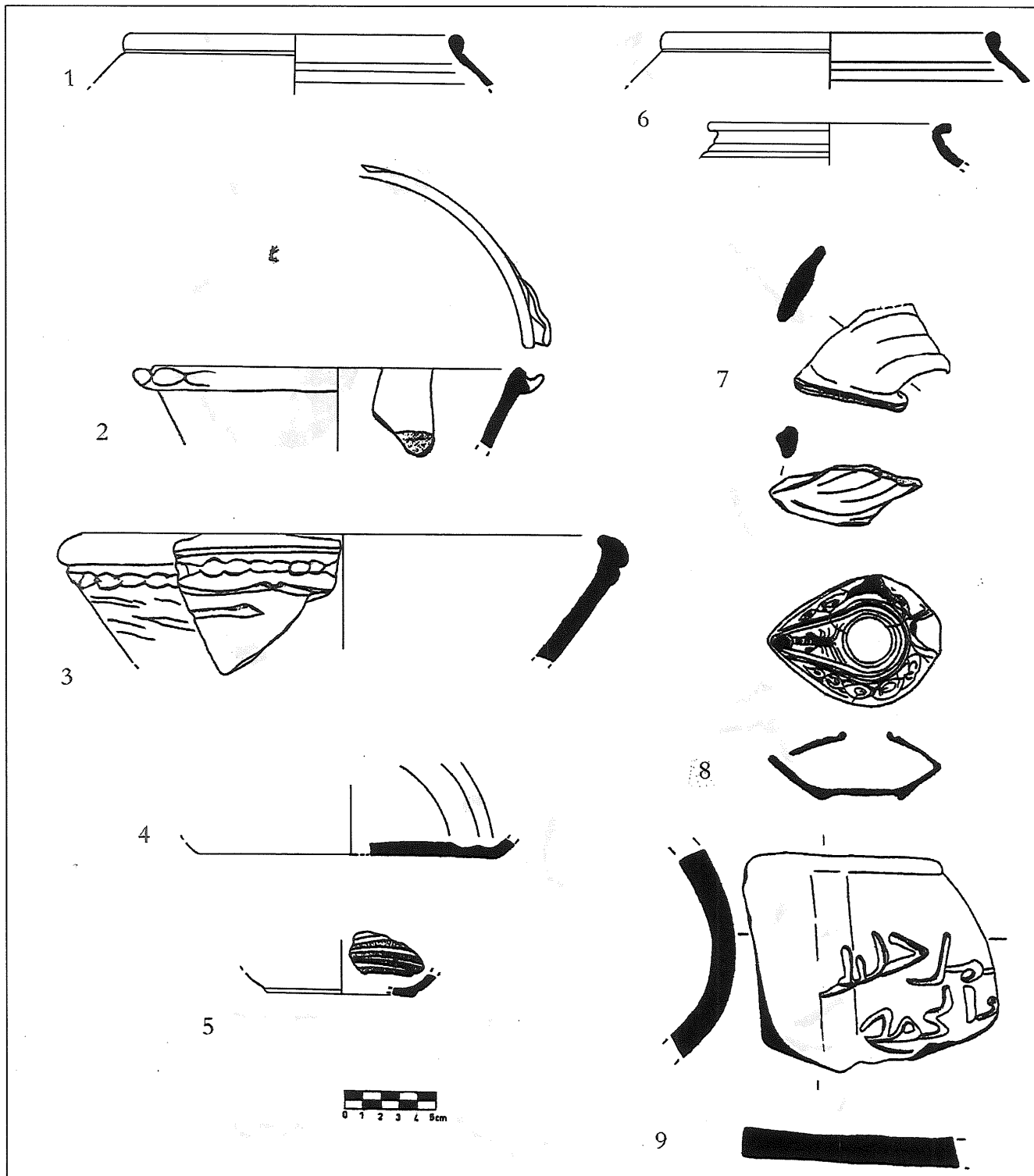
16. Elsl I-III.

dots, salt deposit inside, reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6). Mls. I (Mamluk) Fig. 17:9.

Ayyubid wares were found on top of site no. 8, and a few glazed sherds mixed with the destruction at site no. 3, some with geometrical painting, but the numbers are not sufficient to consider an occu-

pational level.

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16. Elisl I-III.

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