

Of Pots and Strata...: A Reply to „Kinneret and Early Iron Age Chronology“ by E.A. Knauf

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The article reassesses the Early Iron Age stratigraphy of Tel Kinrot/Tell el-Oreme in Northern Israel. Recent suggestions by E.A. Knauf to reorganize the stratigraphic correlation of the two major excavation fields, i.e. the work carried out on the hill's summit in the 1980's and the excavations on the South-western slope during the 1990's, call for a critical reevaluation of the available ceramic data of the two distant excavation areas. Therefore, all the published pottery from the hill's summit is compared to the rich ceramic assemblage from the hill's incline and discussed against the background of the Iron Age I pottery repertoire of the Southern Levant. As result, it is suggested that for the time being the current nomenclature should be — with all due caution — retained unchanged until a solid stratigraphic join of the two excavation fields is available.

In a recent article on „Kinneret and Early Iron Age Chronology“¹ Ernst Axel Knauf criticized a series of topics regarding the most recent preliminary report on this important site on the Northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee². In replying to Knauf, I will restrict myself to his new stratigraphic suggestion.

1. Stratigraphy³

The leading argument in Knauf's proposal for an alternative correlation of the Strata on the summit of the mound and the settlement layers on the slope is seemingly the nature of the respective architecture (i.e. the built-up area). This results mainly in the equation of Stratum IV on the summit with Stratum V on the slope (in Areas B₁, E₁, E₂ and E₃). This suggestion is indeed tentative, as the architecture in Stratum IV on the summit is of much better construction technique and quality than the one of the poor dwellings of Stratum IV on the lower

¹ KNAUF 2002; for a more balanced and slightly different version (e.g. infra note 5), see now KNAUF 2003.

² FRITZ/MÜNGER 2002.

³ The stratification of Tell el-'Oreimeh/Tel Kinrot goes back to the early 80's and was in use since then for the purpose of consistency. However, the task of correlating the old Strata with the new evidence can only be fulfilled when the final stratigraphy of the habitation quarters on the slope once is fully established. In this respect Knauf misses the goal, when he criticizes a report that was called 'preliminary' even in his title. Nevertheless, his sophisticated sub-stratification of the Tell's slope calls for a word of caution. It is indeed true that we could detect on the slope in some areas in Stratum V several phases in the history of construction of the houses. On the other hand, no or hardly any such changes in the architecture could be identified in the same settlement layer in areas nearby. E.g., in Area N (the area by the time directed by Knauf) one wall was tore down at a later stage indicating such a phase, while e.g. in Area S the same architecture served during the entire life-span of the stratum showing the lapse of time only by raised floors. The most complicated building history was found in Area K with various changes in the plan of some house complexes and alterations of floor levels. In this case we decided to show an example of such a modification within a habitation quarter, in: FRITZ/MÜNGER 2002: fig. 4 (nonetheless, a detailed publication of plans is only advisable if the area's final report is at hand; this was, however, e.g. for Area N at that time not the case). To sum up: especially Kinneret Stratum V shows a picture of vivid and dynamic building processes that can be clearly delimited by its construction and its final devastation (of what ever nature) only. Equally, the beginning of an occupation does not need to be the same in every area of such a large site covering up to 10ha of which 5,65 ha are accessible to science (cf. FRITZ/MÜNGER 2002, 2).

slope. Additionally, Stratum IV on the Tell's peak features like Stratum V on the hill's incline at least two sub-phases in Areas A and B₁ (Kinneret I: 33–34⁴). In two instances Knauf deviates from this general correlation. For Area A he suggests the two-phased Stratum V to be attributed to his Stratum VB on the slope, where as Stratum IV should be ascribed to his Stratum VA⁵. Only for the remains of Stratum V and IV in Area C Knauf accepts the current nomenclature.

The evidence available for the Strata VI-IV on the summit of the hill can be listed as follows (see also *Fig. 1*):

<i>Stratum</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Floor area excavated (in sq. m)</i>	<i>Plan in Kinneret I</i>	<i>No. of ill. pottery</i>	<i>Plate in Kinneret I</i>
VI	A	13.4	fig. 12	2	56,7–8 ⁶
	E ₃	32.0	fig. 13	6	56,1–6 ⁷
V	A	31.5 [†]	plan 1	16	57–58
	C	42.3 [†]	fig. 15	-	-
	D	-	-	6	94,1–6 ⁸
	E ₂	24.1	fig. 20	-	-
	E ₃	60.8	fig. 21	-	-
IV	A	75.0 [#]	plan 2	13	59
	B ₁	30.1 [†]	fig. 18	5	66,7–11
	C	43.2 [†]	fig. 16	22	84–85
	E ₁	39.1	fig. 19	16	95
	E ₂	300 [#]	plan 18	11	96
	E ₃	60.8	fig. 22	-	-
# Rounded † Excavated area without city wall					

To sum up, it can be stated that from out of 45 excavated sq. m attributed to Stratum VI only 8 vessels and sherds are published⁹. For Stratum V there are 22 vessels and sherds coming from an excavated area of approx. 160 sq. m. The pottery repertoire attributed to Stratum IV comprises 67 vessels and sherds from ca. 550 sq. m exposed area. In all, the evidence for Strata VI to IV on the hilltop is limited. Especially the architecture attributed to Strata VI–V and the pottery associated with it was found in restricted, narrow loci that do not allow broad conclusions¹⁰.

⁴ In the following «Kinneret I» refers to FRITZ 1990.

⁵ One should note that the remains of Strata V and IV in Area A, though similar in direction (a feature commonly observed between Strata VI and V on the hill's slope), cannot belong to the same overall Stratum, since rooms 124, 127, 96, 95 and 154 belong to a completely rebuilt house of Stratum IV. Even the city wall was altered in some way in the later settlement layer (cf. Kinneret I: plans 1 and 2; compare also Kinneret I: 29–30). Note that E. A. Knauf gave his former ideas about the stratigraphy in his 2003 article up (p. 160–162) and subsequently followed the stratigraphic – though not socio-historical – interpretation of V. FRITZ.

⁶ Cf. Kinneret I: 26.

⁷ For the attribution of pl. 56,1–6 cf. the caption to fig. 13 in Kinneret I.

⁸ Coming from a probe, cf. Kinneret I: 38.

⁹ The stratigraphic attribution of the sherds pl. 66, 12–16 is not clear. The Kinneret I report states on p. 131 that they should be attributed to VI because they were found under floors belonging to Stratum V. On other hand these respective floors (L. 282 and L. 284) are ascribed on p. 34 to Stratum IV (fig. 18, see also the section drawing on plan 21).

¹⁰ The evidence for Stratum IV would not be much better as in Strata VI and V if one would exclude the large area attributed to Stratum IV in E₂, which is not documented by any pottery finds.

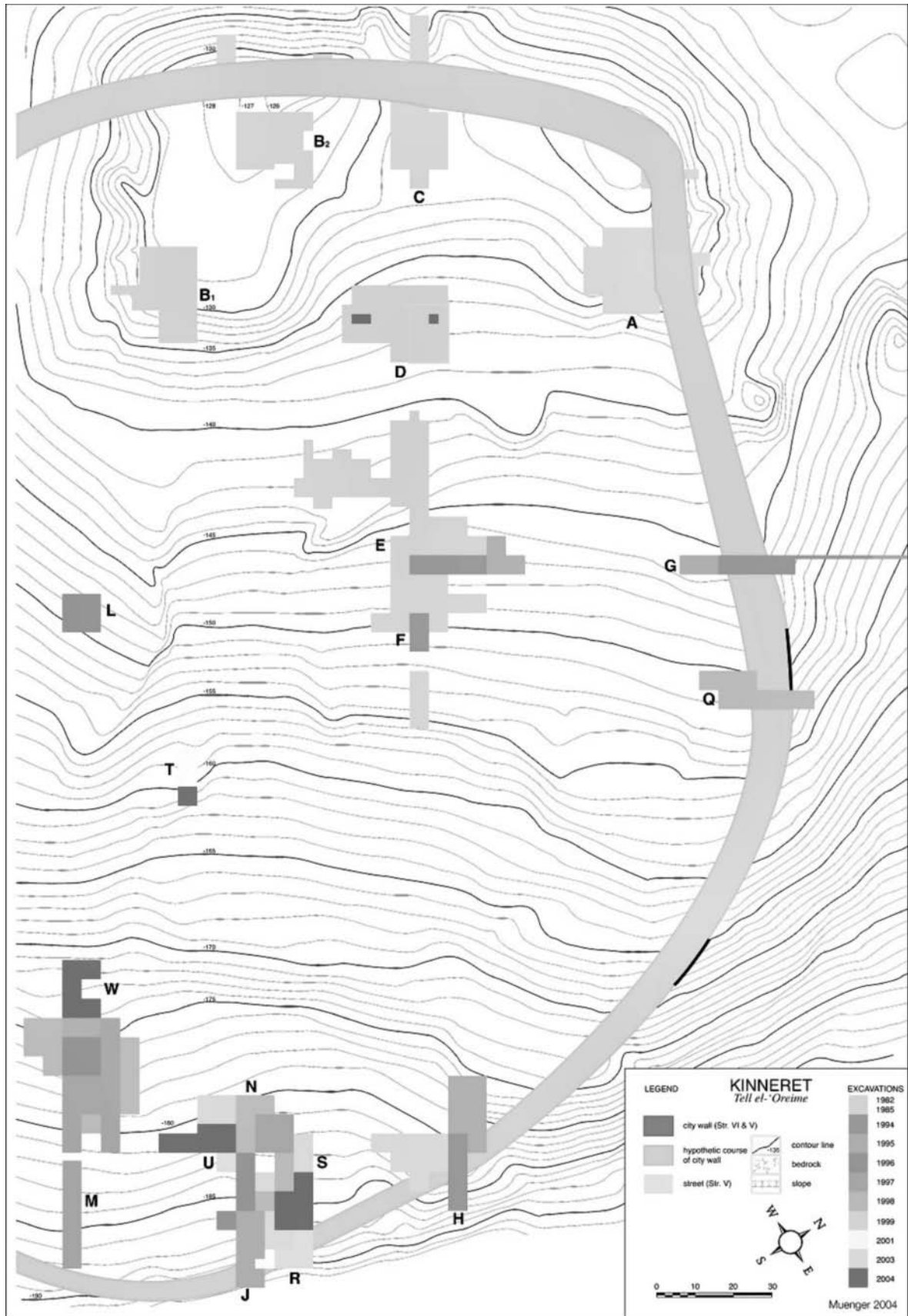


Fig. 1: Plan of the excavated areas 1982-2004.

2. Pottery

In the following section the pottery of Strata VI–IV on the hill's top shall be compared to the material found during the renewed excavations (1994–1999) on the slope (note that the bulk of the Early Iron Age pottery registered on the slope comes from Stratum V, while the pottery assemblage of VI and IV is much more limited). Nonetheless, it seems to the present author that the correlation of the two assemblages is the only possible way to link the two excavation areas, which are separated by some 100 meters at least¹¹.

2.1. Bowls

Among the bowls presented in Kinneret I as belonging to Strata VI–IV only a few types actually are typical for the Early Iron Age.

1) Bowls with a more or less pronounced carination and cyma-shaped bowls can be viewed as hallmarks of that period¹². One exceptionally large item comes from Stratum VI (Kinneret I: pl. 56,1), others derive from Stratum V (Kinneret I: pl. 94,1 = Fig. 2,1a and pl. 57,2). Finally, one carinated bowl originates from Stratum IV (Kinneret I: pl. 59,1 = Fig. 2,1b). Additionally, a slipped vessel of this type comes from Stratum IV as well (Kinneret I: 84,3). Such bowls find their counterparts mainly in specimens found in Stratum V on the slope¹³. However, the slipped bowl (Kinneret I: 84,3) calls for a word on surface treatment in the Early Iron Age pottery repertoire found in the renewed excavations on the slope¹⁴.

The pottery of Strata VI and V on the 'acropolis' is generally unslipped and unburnished, whereas out of the 67 published sherds/vessels attributed to Stratum IV 10 are slipped and one is possibly hand-burnished (Kinneret I: pl. 66,11¹⁵)¹⁶. The renewed excavations produced ca. 360 recorded¹⁷ Iron Age I vessels from Strata VI–IV, many of them with a complete or nearly complete profile. Out of this set 11 are slipped and only 4 vessels are burnished. The distribution is as follows:

¹¹ Only in one case Knauf relies on pottery by commenting the ceramics found in the fills of the Stratum III watchtower esp. by pointing to one sherd (Kinneret I: pl. 60,1) that should be attributed to the Iron Age IIA (9th c. BCE – his terminology). Indeed this sherd may be taken as a relic of that period (however, a detailed discussion would be necessary). On the other hand, there is another conspicuous artifact that may lead to the relative date of the foundational fills: there is no way to date the footed lamp on pl. 60,12 in Kinneret I prior to the mid Iron Age IIB, i.e. the 8th c. BCE or even later! (but see now KNAUF 2003, 163). This is an obvious indication that material presented on Kinneret I: pl. 60 does not derive from clean loci.

¹² Cf. AMIRAN 1969, pls. 60,1-5 and 61,1-5; see also BEN-AMI 2001, 160 with figs. 5,7–16.

¹³ E.g. FRITZ 1999, fig. 8,1–2 = Figs. 2,2a-b.

¹⁴ On the appearance of red slip and burnish in the Early Iron Age cf. MAZAR 1998.

¹⁵ It seems that the Kinneret I report does not consequently mention burnished ware.

¹⁶ VESSELS with decorated rims are omitted.

¹⁷ Unfortunately, the material from the 1994–1999 excavations was neither counted nor weighted. For this reason no sound statistics can be calculated and the figures given in this study cannot be taken as face values (in this respect the present author accepts KNAUF'S [2002, 18] objection to «insufficient recording», while he rejects all other blames purported by Knauf). In any case, exceptional sherds or vessels such as slipped and burnished ware were generally registered.

<i>Stratum</i>	Kinneret I (1982–1985)			Renewed Excavations (1994–1999)		
	<i>Vessels published</i>	<i>Burnish</i>	<i>Slip</i>	<i>Recorded vessels</i>	<i>Burnish</i>	<i>Slip</i>
VI	8	0 % (0)	0 % (0)	70	1.43 % (1)	0 % (0)
V	22	0 % (0)	0 % (0)	260	0.77 % (2) ¹⁸	3.46 % (9)
IV	67	1.49 % (1) ³	16.42 % (11)	30	3.34 % (1)	3.34 % (1)

The discrepancy between the results of the older and the new excavations concerning the use of slip is evident. However, one should bear in mind Fritz's statement: „Die Keramik von Stratum IV stammt aus Schüttschichten, deshalb ist nicht auszuschließen, daß durch spätere Störungen gelegentlich späteres Material eingedrungen ist“ (Kinneret I: 39).

2) Rounded bowls with a plain rim – otherwise quite popular in Early Iron Age strata¹⁹ – are not very frequent in the assemblage of Strata VI-IV both on the 'acropolis' (Kinneret I: pl. 95,6 = *Fig. 2,3*, 96,1 and eventually 96,2) and in the lower city (e.g. *Fig. 2,4*²⁰)²¹.

Bowls with a thickened T-shaped or inverted rim (Kinneret I: pl. 84,1–2.5-7, 95,4–5) are most typical for the later periods of the Iron Age II²². The same holds true for small, shallow and straight-sided bowls (Kinneret I: 57,1)²³. Those and other bowls (Kinneret I: pl. 95,1–3) thus do not find parallels in the assemblage of the renewed excavations.

2.2. *Kraters*

Beside two small fragments of the kraters presented in Kinneret I as coming from Stratum IV (pl. 84,9–10) that might have counterparts in Stratum V in the lower city, only the type with a carinated body and loop handles finds rather close parallels in this assemblage (Kinneret I: pl. 94,2 and 94,3 = *Fig. 2,5*, cf. *Fig. 2,6*²⁴). All other vessels of this type must be viewed as intrusive.

2.3. *Cooking pots*

There is neither time nor space to discuss the numerous cooking pots from Strata VI-IV found on the 'acropolis' (30 items). It is true that most of the rims attributed to Strata VI-IV presented in Kinneret I find their close parallels in the Early Iron Age Strata on the slope (cf. *Fig. 3*²⁵ giving an overview of the types found in Stratum V in area K). Still, some of the material

¹⁸ A third item from Stratum V is possibly intrusive.

¹⁹ MAZAR 1985, 33–39; FINKELSTEIN/ZIMHONI/KAFRI 2000, 252; BEN-AMI 2001, 160 (see reference there).

²⁰ Reg.-no. 8534/18, Locus 5110, Area K, Stratum K2 = Stratum V.

²¹ Tuula Tynjälä – registrar and ceramicist of the 'Kinneret Regional Project' – informs me that among the Early Iron Age material excavated since 2002 the quota of rounded specimens among bowls is ca. 25%.

²² AMIRAN 1969, pl. 64,16–24.

²³ AMIRAN 1969, pl. 64,6–11.

²⁴ Reg.-no. 8321/1, Locus 5064, Area K, Stratum K2 = Stratum V; see also FRITZ 1999: 8.8 and FRITZ/MÜNGER 2002, fig. 7,2 for similar types.

²⁵ 1: Reg.-no. 8473/1 (Locus 5094); 2: Reg.-no. 8715/1 (Locus 5079); 3: Reg.-no. 8715/2 (Locus 5079); 4: Reg.-no. 8732/1 (Locus 5237); 5: Reg.-no. 7500/1 (Locus 5132); 6: Reg.-no. 8078/5 (Locus 5027); 7: Reg.-no. 8216/7 (Locus 5027); 8: Reg.-no. 8463/3 (Locus 5088); 9: Reg.-no. 8707/1 (Locus 5237); 10: Reg.-no. 8135/3 (Locus 5042); 11: Reg.-no. 8195/1 (Locus 5051); 12: Reg.-no. 7851/1 (Locus 5316); 13: Reg.-no.

published does not fit the overall picture gained in the renewed excavations. A few items shall be cited: Typologically of a later date are Kinneret I: pl. 85,10; 85,11; 95,12 and 96,3²⁶. However, all the examples cited come from loci attributed to Stratum IV on the hilltop and therefore the statement of Fritz cited above should apply here too²⁷.

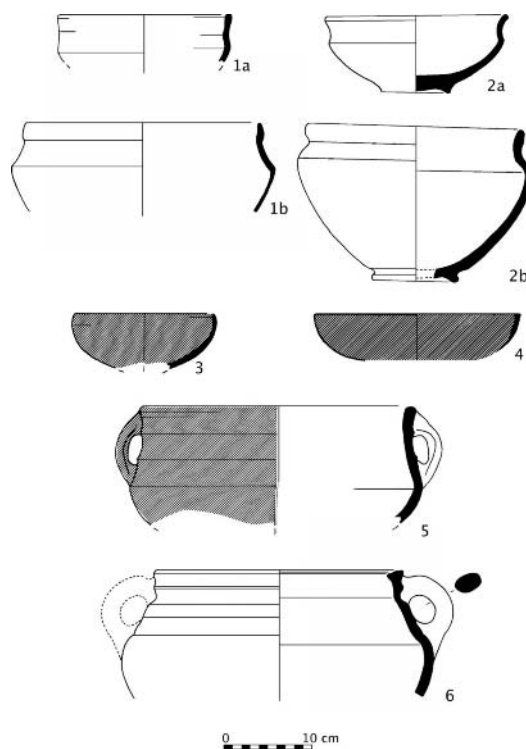


Fig. 2: Bowls and kraters.

2.4. Storage jars

Since for the storage jars mainly rim parts are available from Kinneret I, comparison is limited. Of special interest are the following types:

1) Four-handled pithoi are very indicative for Iron IB assemblages. Four fragmentary items found in the lower city²⁸, two in Stratum VI and V respectively, parallel one specimen attributed to Stratum V on the 'acropolis' (Fig. 4,1 = Kinneret I: pl. 58,2). This type is absent in Stratum IV on the slope.

2) One complete pithos of the collared rim type – a *Leitfossil* of the Iron Age I²⁹ – is reported as coming from Stratum V (Fig. 4,3 = Kinneret I: pl. 58,5) on the hill's summit³⁰. Where from

8194/1 (Locus 5038); 14: Reg.-no. 8078/7 (Locus 5027); 15: Reg.-no. 7687/1 (Locus 5277K); 16: Reg.-no. 7687/5 (Locus 5277K); 17: Reg.-no. 7687/3 (Locus 5277K); 18: Reg.-no. 7687/2 (Locus 5277K); 19: Reg.-no. 7687/4 (Locus 5277K); 20: Reg.-no. 7846/1 (Locus 5309).

²⁶ Of this item – most probably a cooking pot and not a krater as stated in the legend – a parallel has been found in a post Stratum IV locus in Area E.

²⁷ Also forms commonly attributed to earlier periods like Kinneret I: 85,1 were confirmed to be of an Early Iron Age date due to parallels found in Area K (see *infra* Fig. 3,1 and 12).

²⁹ The life span of this type begins in Late Bronze Age IIB contexts (Aphék X12: BECK/KOCHAVI 1993, 68; Tel Nami: ARTZY 1995, 25–26 fig. 2.12) and continues well into the beginning of the Iron Age II (HUNT 1987, 200 with fig. 36,7–11). For the problematic ethnic affiliation of such pithoi, cf. Münger forthcoming.

³⁰ The item is with its height of only slightly more than 90 cm relatively small, but cf., e.g., a similar example from a late Iron IA context at Tel Dor: GILBOA/SHARON 2003, fig. 3,4 with p. 32 and table 5. No close parallel has been found in the renewed excavations on the slope.

two additional rim fragments, most probably belonging to the same vessel type, are said to originate from Stratum VI and V, respectively (*ibid.* pl. 56,4; pl. 58,3). Stratum IV was void of such vessels. On the slope the same situation is reflected. 3 complete or fragmentary collared rim jars were detected in Stratum VI, 10 in Stratum V³¹. Stratum IV produced none³².

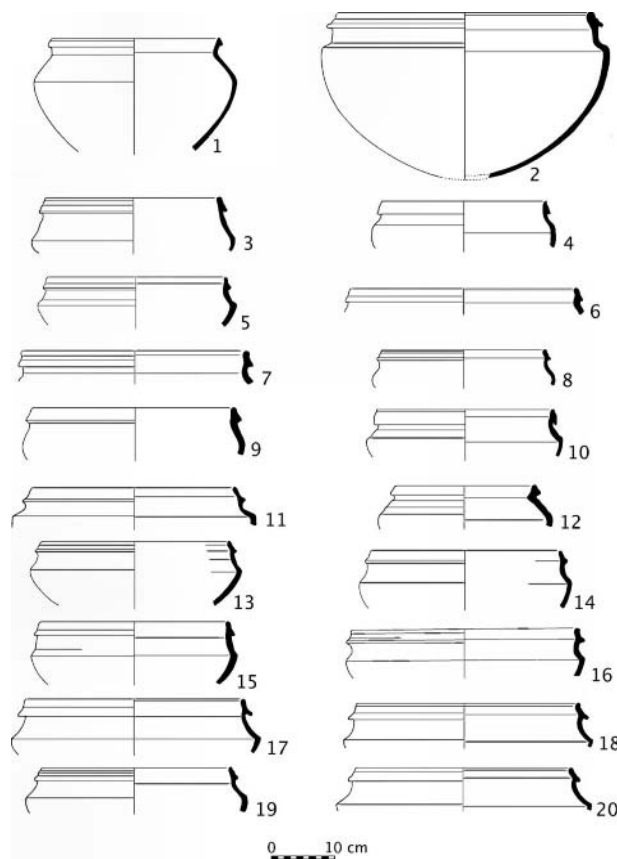


Fig. 3: Cooking pot types from Stratum V (Area K).

3) Fragments of storage jars with ridged rims were encountered on the ‘acropolis’ in Strata VI to IV (Kinneret I: VI: pl. 56,3; V: pl. 58,1, IV: pl. 59,13, pl. 66,9–10 = *Fig. 5,1a–b*). Those types are equally most typical for the Iron Age I³³ and have been found abundantly on the Tell’s slope³⁴. For instance, for the ovoid storage jar (Kinneret I: pl. 59,13 = *Fig. 5,3*, Stratum IV on the Tell’s peak) ca. 20 morphologically comparable vessels (with various rim shapes) could be cited of which ca. 25% come from Stratum VI (e.g. *Fig. 5,4*³⁵) and the rest from Stratum V on the slope. No such vessel has been recorded there in Stratum IV.

The storage jars Kinneret I: pl. 85,12; 95,14–15; 96,7 and the pithos Kinneret I: pl. 58,5 are unparalleled in the Early Iron Age I pottery assemblage retrieved from the Tell’s slope.

³¹ E.g. FRITZ 1999, figs. 1–2, the former is displayed here as Fig. 4,4.

³² Due to the fact that the remains of Stratum IV are very close to the surface much of the material belonging to this settlement layer became victim of the tremendous erosion on the slope and ended up as a surface find or in a natural fill. Thus the assemblage of Stratum IV is inevitably incomplete.

³³ E.g. ZARZEKI-PELEG 1997, figs. 2,9 and 3,9 for examples from Jokneam XVII and Megiddo VIA. At least in Megiddo this type is absent from the Iron Age II assemblage, cf. FINKELSTEIN/ZIMHONI/KAFRI 2000, 280. See also BEN-AMI 2001, fig. 8 for various rim types.

³⁴ E.g. FRITZ/MÜNGER 2002: fig. 8 = Fig. 5,2.

³⁵ Reg.-no. 7314/1, Locus 4088, Area J, Stratum J2 = Stratum VI.

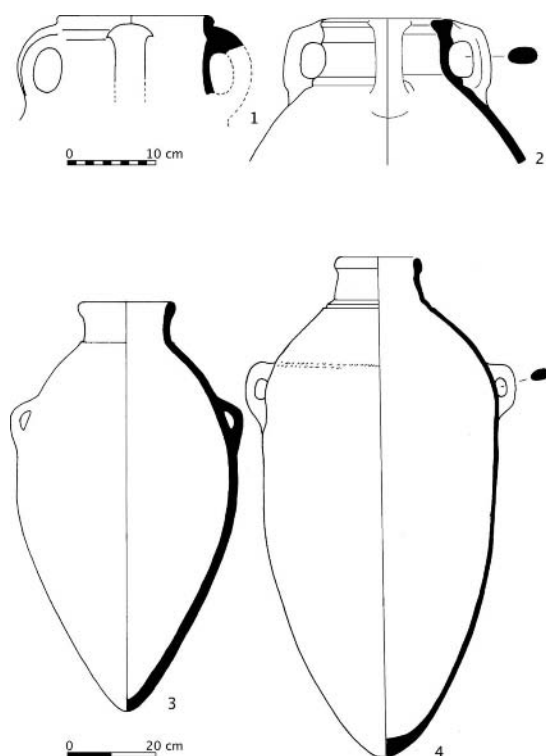


Fig. 4: Storage jars and pithoi.

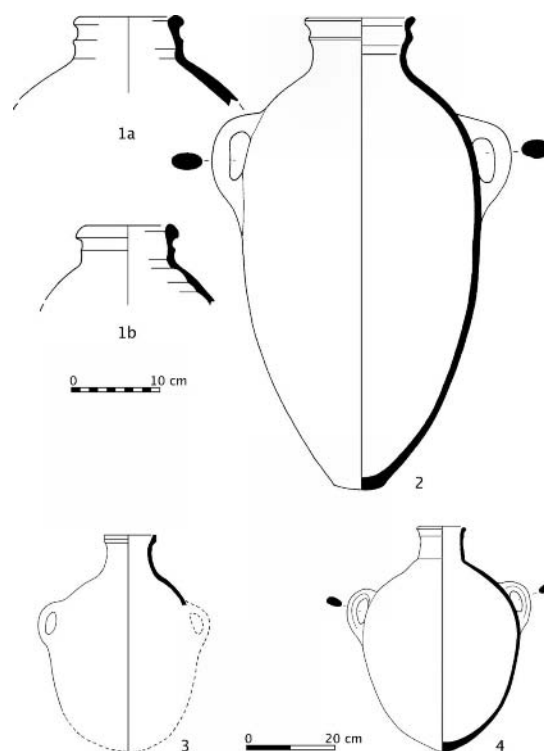


Fig. 5: Storage jars.

2.5. *Varia*

Chalices are rather frequent in Early Iron Age Kinneret. Though no exact parallel to the chalice depicted in Kinneret I: pl. 84,8 (= *Fig. 6,1*)³⁶ has been found in the 1994-1999 excavations on the slope³⁷, excellent parallels were revealed in the last phases of Stratum V in Area R and U (= *Fig. 6,2*) during the ongoing excavations of the 'Kinneret Regional Project' at Tel Kinrot (*Fig. X,2*)³⁸. However, the soft S-profile of the undecorated specimen from Stratum IV on the 'acropolis' could also point to a slightly later date³⁹. Equally, the goblets (Kinneret I: pl. 96,9–10 = *Fig. 6,3a–b*) have close parallels in the 1994-1999 assemblage, both in Strata V and IV (*Fig. 6,4a* = FRITZ/ MÜNGER 2002: fig. 9,3; *Fig. 6,4b*⁴⁰). Of the juglets only the partly preserved item from Stratum VI (Kinneret I: 56,5 = *Fig. 6,5*) is backed-up by finds from all three Strata from the lower city (e.g., *Fig. 6,6*⁴¹). The same holds true for the strainer-spouted jug (Kinneret I: pl. 56,6, Stratum VI), although to date no comparable complete vessel has been discovered in the lower city. Contrary, the decanter (Kinneret I: pl. 96,6) is definitely of a post

³⁶ Classified in Kinneret I as a bowl.

³⁷ For the regular Iron Age I types at Kinneret cf. FASSBECK/MÜNGER/RÖHL 2003, figs. 78–80.

³⁸ Reg.-no. 11238/1, Locus 6402, Area R and Reg.-no. 10381/1, Locus 4255, Area U = *Fig. 6,2*. For comparable Early Iron Age examples see, e.g., Tell Qasile (XI)-X: Mazar 1985, pl. 32,4, 40,8, 43,22 and 47,9 or 'Izbet ḤarḤah II: Finkelstein 1986, 15,6 = FINKELSTEIN 1988: fig. 90 (upper right corner). I thank Tuula Tynjälä (Helsinki) for bringing my attention to these finds and some of their parallels.

³⁹ Cf., e.g., Tell el-Far'ah (N) 7b: CHAMBON 1984, pl. 60,8; Taanach IIA: Rast 1978: 27,2 and IIB: *ibid.*: 53,5; Megiddo V: LAMON/SHIPTON 1939, pl. 33,18; Megiddo: tomb 39: Guy 1938, pl. 68,20/164,11; Tell Qasile IX: Mazar 1985, 52,15; Lachish V: AHARONI 1975, pl. 42,14–21; Ashdod X: DOTHAN/PORATH 1982, fig. 8,10.

⁴⁰ Reg.-no. 8575/1, Locus 5126, Area K, Stratum K2 = Stratum V.

⁴¹ Reg.-no. 8046/1, Locus 5020, Area K, Stratum K1 = Stratum IV.

Iron I date⁴². Finally, the lamp (Kinneret I: 96,11) is very generic and is mostly paralleled in finds from Strata V and IV.

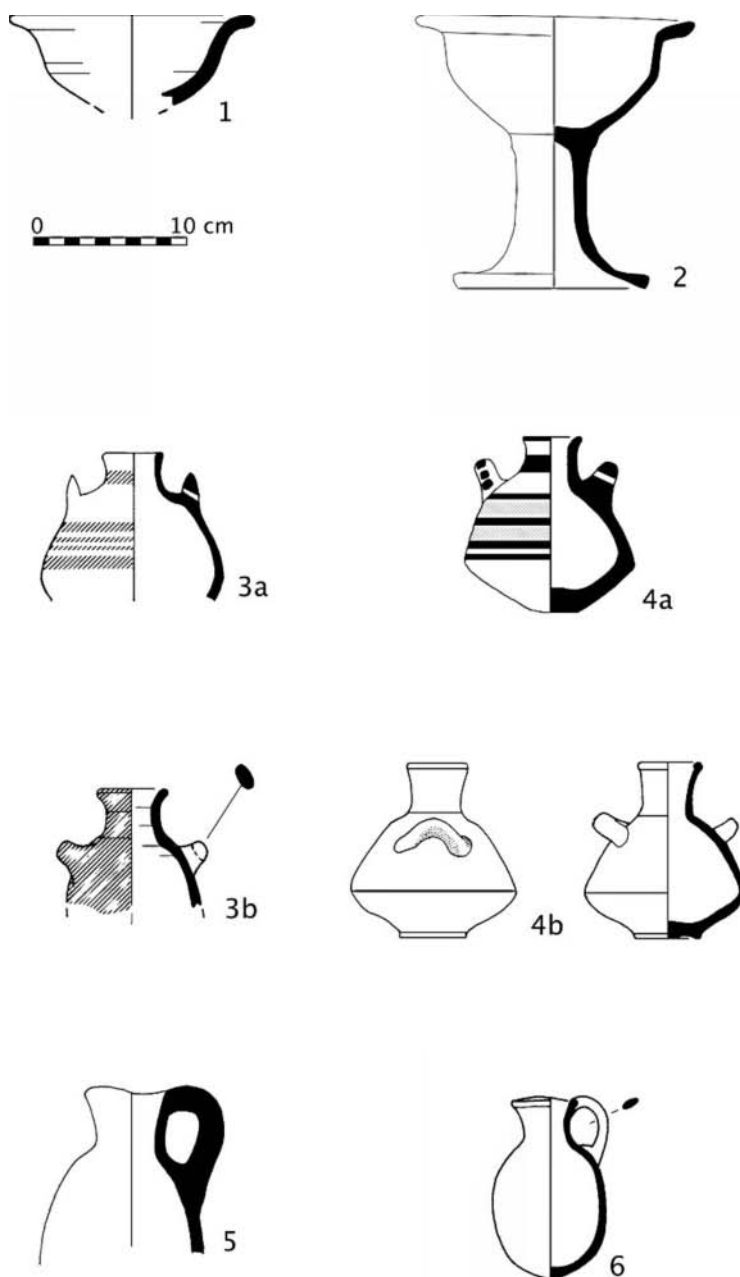


Fig. 6: Chalices, pyxides and juglets

Last but not least, six body-sherds should be mentioned. The bi-colored sherd (Kinneret I: pl. 58,4) found in a Stratum V locus on the hill's peak follows LB-traditions common in the Early Iron Age as can perfectly be seen on the beer-jug mentioned above. The sherds (Kinneret I: pl. 66,12–15), found in an ambiguous context (cf. note 9), might not – as stated by the excavators – belong to the so-called 'Black-on-Red' family (Kinneret I: 131), since the deco-

⁴² Cf. e.g. the intrasite parallels Fritz 1978, fig. 3.8 (Köppel's excavations); Kinneret I: pl. 83,1 (Stratum IA), pl. 98,12 (Stratum I); see also AMIRAN 1969, 259 with pl. 88,1–4 and MAZAR/PANITZ-COHEN 2001, 118-119 with a detailed discussion.

ration pattern would be unusual⁴³. Only a close examination of the sherds by a specialist may solve this issue⁴⁴. Of special interest is the reused base (Kinneret I: pl. 66,16) since it belongs according to the excavator to the Cypriot ‘White-Painted’ family – most probably ‘White-Painted II’ as its coating is described as „ledergelbe Engobe“ (Kinneret I: 131), typical of the second stage in the development of this ware⁴⁵.

3. Conclusion

The following charts will sum-up the result achieved and evaluate Knauf’s new correlation of the Early Iron Age Strata excavated in 1982–1985 and 1994–1999, respectively. Note, that only *close* parallels are included and that cooking-pots and body-sherds were omitted (thus the figures given in the description of some types above may differ from this table).

Area	Stratum	Plate	Type	Parallel on the slope			Unparalleled vessels
				Str. VI	Str. V	Str. IV	
A	V	57,1 [#]	BL	-	1	-	[58,5 (PT; cf. <i>infra</i> note 14)]
		57,2 [†]	BL	-	3	-	
		58,1 [†]	SJ	2	3	1	
		58,2 [†]	SJ	1	2	-	
		58,3 [†]	PT	1	2	-	
<i>Summary for Str. V in Area A</i>				4	11	1	[1]
	IV	59,1 [†]	BL	-	2	-	59,2 [†] (KR)
		59,12 [†]	SJ	-	1	-	
		59,13 [#]	SJ	1	2	-	
<i>Summary for Str. IV in Area A</i>				1	5	0	1
B	IV	66,9 [†]	SJ	-	4	-	66,7 [†] (KR); 66,8 [†] (KR); 66,11 ^{#b?} (JG)
		66,10 [†]	SJ	-	4 ^o	-	
<i>Summary for Str. IV in Area B₁</i>				0	8	0	3
C	IV	84,3 ^{†s}	BL	-	1 ^o	-	84,1 [#] (BL); 84,2 [#] (BL); 84,5 (BL) ^{†s} ; 84,6 (BL) ^{†s} ; 84,7 (BL) ^{†s} ; 85,12 ^{†s} (SJ)
		84,4 [†]	BL	-	1	1	
		84,8 [†]	CL	-	2	-	
		84,9 [†]	KR	-	1	-	
		84,10 [†]	KR	-	1	-	
<i>Summary for Str. IV in Area C</i>				0	6	1	6

⁴³ Unfortunately, the text does not state whether the sherds are burnished or not. The two sherds showed on pl. 35E seem to be bi-colored black and white (if so, they might be compared to a vessel found by SCHUMACHER in this ‘4. Brandschicht’ at Megiddo –attributed by some scholars to Stratum VI of the Chicago expedition, see SCHUMACHER 1908, 86, 88, fig. 123 = WATZINGER 1929, 36 fig. 33; cf. also the critique of such an attribution by A. Mazar 1994, in: Keel 1994, 52. Equally, these sherds might be displaced examples of ‘Late Philistine Decorated Ware’. On this group, cf. now BEN-SHLOMO/SHAI/MAEIR 2004.

⁴⁴ If these sherds indeed belong to the Black-on-Red family, LOCUS 295 cannot be dated prior to the mid Iron Age IIA.

⁴⁵ If this is true and the definition of the aforementioned sherds as Black-on-Red is valid, this would result in a similar situation as at Ḥorvat Rosh-Zayit where – in the opinion of the excavators – the two families were found in the same context, cf. GAL and ALEXANDRE 2000, esp. 79 (for the chronological relationship between the two groups, see now SCHREIBER 2003, esp. 256-273 with tables F, G and Appendix). On the other hand White-Painted II is said to have been observed in Megiddo VI (LOUD 1948, fig. 78,20), the same Stratum the Schumacher vessel mentioned in *infra* note has been attributed to.

D	V	94,1 [†]	BL	-	2	-	
		94,2 [#]	KR	-	1	-	
		94,3 ^{#s}	KR	-	1 ^o	-	
<i>Summary for Str. V in Area D</i>				0	4	0	0
E ₁	IV	95,5 [†]	BL	-	-	1	95,1 ^{†s} (BL); 95,2 [†] (BL); 95,3 [†] (BL); 95,4 ^{†s} (BL); 95,7 [#] (KR); 95,8 [†] (KR); 95,9 [†] (KR); 95,10 [†] (KR); 95,14 ^{†s} (SJ); 95,15 ^{†s} (SJ); 95,16 [#] (JG)
		95,6 ^{#s}	BL	-	1 ^{sb} 1 ^b	-	
<i>Summary for Str. IV in Area E₁</i>				0	2	1	11
E ₂	IV	96,2 [†]	BL	1	-	2	96,1 [#] (BL); 96,7 [†] (SJ); 96,10 [#] (JT)
		96,8 [#]	PY	-	2	-	
		96,9 ^{#s}	PY	-	1 ^s 2 ^o	1	
		96,11 [#]	LP	-	6	1	
<i>Summary for Str. IV in Area E₂</i>				1	11	4	3
E ₃	VI	56,1 [†]	BL	-	1	-	[56,6 [#] (JG; cf. <i>infra</i> page 6)]
		56,3 [†]	SJ	2	3	-	
		56,4 [†]	PT	-	1	-	
		56,5 [#]	JT	1	3	1	
<i>Summary for Str. VI in Area E₃</i>				3	8	1	[1]
[†] = rim only [#] = (almost) complete vessel ^s = slipped ^b = burnished ^o = unslipped/unburnished							
<i>BL = Bowl; CL = Chalice; JG = Jug; JT = Juglet; KR = Krater; LP = Lamp; PT = Pithos; PY = Pyxis; SJ = Storage jar.</i>							

Based on the ceramic material, the general attribution of each stratigraphic unit in the various areas on the 'acropolis' can thus be proposed as follows:

Area	Former attribution by Fritz (Kinneret I)	New attribution by Knauf (2002: 18)	Preferred Stratum according to the pottery
A	VI	VI	VI or V
	V	VB (VA)*	V
	IV	VA (IV)*	(V or) IV
B ₁	IV	V	(IV)
C	V	V	?
	IV	IV	(IV)
D	V	- (pre-VI)*	(V or) IV
	IV	- (VA)*	?
E ₁	IV	V	(IV)
E ₂	V	VI (VB)*	?
	IV	V (VA)*	(IV)
E ₃	VI	- (pre-VI)*	VI or V
	V	VI (VB)*	?
	IV	V (VA)**	?

* Variants according to KNAUF 2003: 160-163 ? = No material published

Comment: *Area A*) Stratum VI on the ‘acropolis’ is undisputed. Similarly, the nomenclature of Stratum V should stay unchanged. For stratigraphic reasons (*infra* note 5) the relative placement of Stratum IV should be unchanged as well and thus the krater (Kinneret I: pl. 59,2) viewed as intrusive. *Area B₁*) The material, if deriving from more or less safe loci, is possibly later than Stratum IV. Hence, to designate this unit as IV remains problematic. *Area C*) As there is no pottery from Stratum V published, this case cannot be evaluated. As for Stratum IV, the cooking pots (Kinneret I: pl. 85,10f) and the storage jar (Kinneret I: 85,12) are clearly later than IV. Although the other vessel types could be rooted in the Early Iron Age I, they do show signs of a later date (esp. the bowls Kinneret I: pl. 84,5-7). Even if these vessels derive from unclean loci, an attribution to Stratum IV is unsatisfactory. *Area D*) Due to the conspicuous slip of the krater (Kinneret I: pl. 94,3), the assemblage might belong to Stratum IV. *Area E₁*) Most of the forms are not present in the Early Iron Age assemblage from the areas on the slope. Therefore an attribution to Stratum IV is unlikely. *Area E₂*) While most of the forms would be compatible with a relatively early date, the krater/cooking-pot (Kinneret I: pl. 91,3) does definitely not (cf. *infra* note 26). The other cooking-pot types do fit a Stratum IV context best. *Area E₃*) The material from Stratum VI is beyond any doubt contemporary with general Stratum VI on the slope.

For the time being, Knauf’s new proposal can neither be substantiated nor rejected on the basis of pottery analysis alone. Though plausible at first sight, there are too many obstacles to accept his view as compelling. Anyhow, things may be more complicated than the simplistic correlation of meager evidence on the summit of the mound and rather firm data from its slope suggest. Possibly, the evolution on the ‘acropolis’ was different and more complex compared to the development in the domestic quarters on the lower parts of the site. This may already be indicated by the fact that the remains attributed to Stratum VI in Area A do not seem to presuppose a city wall (Kinneret I: 26), whereas, according to the evidence in Area H of the renewed excavations, the domestic quarters on the foot of the hill were protected by a massive defensive wall already in Stratum VI⁴⁶.

Only a solid stratigraphic connection between the hilltop and the slope in the course of further excavations and closer attention to microstratigraphy will bring clarity in this matter – an undertaking for years to come.

Postscript

In 2002 the ‘Kinneret Regional Project’ – a German-Finnish-Swiss joint expedition – was formally established by the universities of Berne, Helsinki and Mainz. Subsequently, in 2003 and 2004, two major campaigns were undertaken under the direction of Juha Pakkala, Jürgen Zangenberg and the present author. In view of the results achieved during these campaigns, the static division of the Early Iron Age remains of the lower city into 3 major strata becomes more and more problematic, as according to new evidence the urban development underwent much more locally confined changes and alterations than previously assumed. These changes cannot be generalized for the entire Tell, therefore it seems too schematic to subsume them under the concept of ‘Stratum’. Consequently, the bold stratigraphic division currently still in use will probably have to be replaced by a more dynamic model once a more detailed sequence of the individual settlement layers is established for each area.

⁴⁶ Cf. the section drawing in FRITZ 2003, fig. 56. Note, however, that this wall might – in some places – be a reuse of an older fortification.

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