

1ST CENTURY-GLASS FROM TERRACE HOUSE 2 IN EPHEOS

The archaeological excavations in Terrace House 2 in Ephesos (fig. 1) brought to light a number of extraordinary findings concerning the construction periods and equipment of the single dwelling areas. As a result of the scientific research – especially the recent investigations¹ – we can now distinguish some well-dated deposits: The age determination of these assemblages is based on the analysis of coin series and fine ceramic ware. These stratified findings allowed efficient systematic studies and interpretation also of glass finds. Some characteristic pieces of the 1st c. AD shall be presented in this paper.

In Ephesos, we find a great amount of so-called ribbed and linear-cut bowls, the most prevalent vessel forms of the Early Imperial period. In Terrace House 2, mainly two different types of ribbed bowls were in use: On the one hand, a deep bowl with long ribs (G 1), which corresponds to Isings 1957, form 3b². The fragment was recovered in dwelling unit 1 and is made of light blue, opaque weathered glass (fig. 2)³. On the other hand, the bowl (G 2)⁴ that was preserved in dwelling unit 3 shows a more shallow form and smaller ribs (fig. 3). These are characteristics of form Isings 3c⁵. This type is more common in the Eastern Mediterranean area, and similar pieces are known e.g. from Delos and Samos⁶. These findings suggest a local production centre in this region.

Ribbed bowls were generally used as drinking cups from the second half of the 1st c. BC to the last quarter of the 1st c. AD⁷. In Ephesos, the prevailing majority of the ribbed bowls could be dated to the Augustan period. They seem to have been in use on the site until the Flavian period⁸. Recent investigations indicate that these bowls were manufactured by melting a disk of glass over a domed former. While the glass was still hot, the ribs were made with a metallic or wooden tool, probably on a slow-turning potter's wheel⁹.

From the Augustan period two fragments of linear-cut bowls (G 3–4)¹⁰ have been retrieved in dwelling unit 3 (fig. 3): These strongly coloured cast glass bowls show a characteristic decoration of horizontally cut lines on the inner surface. Their shape can vary from conical to hemispherical, diameters range from 11.0 to 16.0 cm, with most examples centring around 12.0 or 14.0 cm. This type of bowl was common from the end of the 1st c. BC to the first half of the 1st c. AD¹¹. Their predecessors are the Hellenistic ›grooved bowls‹, thick-walled conical bowls with rounded bases that were produced in the Near East from the 2nd c. BC onwards¹². In Ephesos, the surviving pieces of linear-cut bowls could be dated to the Augustan and early Tiberian period¹³. From the same period of time, a small marbled bead (fig. 4, G 5)¹⁴ was preserved in dwelling

¹ LADSTÄTTER 1998; LADSTÄTTER 2000; LADSTÄTTER 2002; LADSTÄTTER 2005; LADSTÄTTER 2010; THÜR 2005; S. LADSTÄTTER – A. GALIK – D. IRO – M. PFISTERER – E. RATHMAYR – V. SCHEIBELREITER – H. SCHWAIGER – M. TEICHMANN, Die Grabungen des Jahres 2004 im Hanghaus 2 in Ephesos, *ÖJh* 74, 2005, 247–276.

² ISINGS 1957, 19 f.; RÜTTI 1991, form AR 2. 2.

³ LADSTÄTTER 2010, A.X.18; SCHÄTZSCHOCK 2010, A-G 1.

⁴ Inv. 2000/70, unpublished.

⁵ ISINGS 1957, 20 f.; RÜTTI 1991, form AR 2. 3.

⁶ NENNA 1999, C 275–276; TÖLLE-KASTENBEIN 1974, fig. 275.

⁷ ISINGS 1957, 17–21; GROSE 1989, Group C; RÜTTI 1991, form AR 2.

⁸ ISINGS 1957, form 3a. b shallow bowl with long, widely spaced ribs – has not been found in Terrace House 2 until now; some pieces were recovered on the Agora (GASSNER 1997, no. 858), in Terrace House 1 (CZURDA-RUTH 2007, no. 72) and on the State Agora in Ephesos (SCHÄTZSCHOCK 2007, G 10–12). All forms occur from Augustan to Flavian times.

⁹ STERN – SCHLICK-NOLTE 1994, 72–79; LIERKE 1999, 51–55; LIERKE 2002, 181–186.

¹⁰ Inv. 2000/89; 2000/96, unpublished.

¹¹ GROSE 1989, Group D; RÜTTI 1991, form AR 3. 2; JENNINGS 2000, 53 Group 5.

¹² GROSE 1989, Group A.

¹³ Cf. CZURDA-RUTH 2007, no. 20. 30–32; MERİÇ 2002, G12; SCHÄTZSCHOCK 2005, G 5; SCHÄTZSCHOCK 2007, G 8; SCHÄTZSCHOCK 2010, B-G 6.

¹⁴ SCHÄTZSCHOCK 2005, G 97 pl. 232. 235.

unit 4. The bead has a height of 1.9 cm and a diameter of 1.0 cm. It is made of blue, yellow and white glass and was manufactured in rod-forming technique: hot glass threads of different colours were coiled around a rod and placed in a marbled pattern¹⁵. This type of bead is rare; single pieces can be found in Delos, Knossos and Carthage, as well as on Magdalensberg¹⁶. They date from the 2nd c. BC to Augustan times. Probably the Ephesian bead was imported from Delos.

A well preserved table ware ensemble came to light in dwelling unit 1 (fig. 5)¹⁷: It was recovered in a closed group of ceramics and glass vessels that could be dated to the Flavian period¹⁸. The assemblage shows the characteristic decoration of that time. As vitreous forms we find large plates (G 6–7) with linear-cut decoration, one with a tubular rim; furthermore bowls (G 8–10), beakers (G 11–12) and a lid (G 13). All vessels are manufactured of nearly colourless, partly white weathered, blown glass, except one: the large plate (G 6) with a diameter of approximately 30 cm is made of greenish blue glass. Its rim is double folded and tubular – a kind of decoration that is not too common in the 1st c. AD¹⁹. The conical plate (G 7) shows the characteristic linear-cut decoration of the second half of the 1st c. AD. It can be identified as Isings form 47²⁰.

Two cylindrical bowls with a horizontal rim (G 8–9) can be reconstructed to form Isings 87 with high base ring. This kind of bowl was used as table ware from the middle of the 1st c. until the 3rd c. AD²¹. Similar bowls have also been recovered in dwelling unit 4²².

Two fragments of a beaker (G 11) also show the characteristic linear-cut decoration on the outer surface: they can be reconstructed as slightly conical with a rounded base, corresponding to form Isings 29. This type of beaker was in use from the second half of the 1st to the middle of the 2nd c. AD²³. Furthermore, a single base fragment (G 12) can be identified as a conical beaker form Isings 34 with tubular base ring. These vessels are usually decorated with similar linear-cut incisions²⁴.

One of the most interesting vessels in this assemblage is a fragment with a wheel-cut decoration (G 10): It can be reconstructed to a shallow bowl Isings 18 that was common in the second half of the 1st c. AD²⁵. It shows two characteristic grooves on the outer surface and a new kind of decoration on its base: three lines of oval wheel-cut facets. These ornaments became popular in the Flavian period for the first time²⁶.

In comparison to the ceramic pieces preserved in this layer²⁷, it can be seen that the amount of vitreous vessels in the Ephesian table ware was relatively low during that period – when glass was still a precious material. These conditions slowly changed by the improving development of local glass production at the beginning of the 3rd c. AD.

Catalogue

G 1: Ribbed bowl
Inv. 1996/89/70
Context: H2, SR 8, Sond. 4/96
DmR 12 cm, ThW 0.2 cm
Colour: bluish opaque
Dating: Flavian

G 2: Ribbed bowl
Inv. 2000/70
Context: H2/17, SE 018
DmR 14 cm, ThW 0.2 cm
Colour: light blue
Dating: Augustan

¹⁵ Cf. STERN – SCHLICK-NOLTE 1994, 61–64.

¹⁶ Cf. NENNA 1999, E 183–188; FÜNFSCILLING 1999, 202 f. no. 557; PRICE 1992, Pl. 353 no. 11; CZURDA-RUTH 1979, no. 2050.

¹⁷ SCHÄTZSCHOCK 2010, A.XII.5.

¹⁸ LADSTÄTTER 2000; LADSTÄTTER 2010, A.X.18.

¹⁹ Cf. CZURDA-RUTH 1998, no. 790.

²⁰ ISINGS 1957, 62; RÜTTI 1991, form AR 18.

²¹ ISINGS 1957, 104; RÜTTI 1991, form AR 79; cf. FÜNFSCILLING 1999, no. 111. 602.

²² SCHÄTZSCHOCK 2005, G 16–18.

²³ ISINGS 1957, 24; RÜTTI 1991, form AR 35.

²⁴ ISINGS 1957, 48 f.; RÜTTI 1991, form AR 37; FÜNFSCILLING 1999, 469 f.

²⁵ ISINGS 1957, 36 f.

²⁶ Cf. STERN 2001, 24 f. 41 f. 136 f.; RÜTTI 1991, 93.

²⁷ Cf. LADSTÄTTER 2000; LADSTÄTTER 2010, A.X.18, complex A-BII/6.

G 3: Linear-cut bowl Inv. 2000/89 Context: H2/17 DmR 12 cm, ThW 0.3 cm Colour: dark blue Dating: Augustan	DmR 11 cm, ThW 0.1 cm Colour: bluish green, opaque white weathered Dating: Flavian
G 4: Linear-cut bowl Inv. 2000/96 Context: H2/17 DmR 12 cm, ThW 0.3 cm Colour: yellow brown Dating: Augustan	G 10: Facet-cut bowl Inv. 1996/160/10 Context: H2/SR 8, Sond. 4/96 DmR 16 cm, ThW 0.3 cm Colour: colourless, opaque white weathered Dating: Flavian
G 5: Bead Inv. H2/92/45.1 Context: H2/7, Sond. 1/92 Dm 1 cm, H 1.9 cm Colour: yellow, white, dark blue; weathered Dating: Augustan	G 11: Beaker Inv. 1996/160/9 Context: H2/SR 8, Sond. 4/96 DmR 6 cm, ThW 0.2 cm Colour: colourless, opaque white weathered Dating: Flavian
G 6: Plate Inv. 1996/160/6 Context: H2/SR 8, Sond. 4/96 DmR 30 cm, ThW 0.1 cm Colour: greenish blue Dating: Flavian	G 12: Beaker Inv. 1996/78/14 Context: H2/SR 8, Sond. 4/96 DmB 5 cm, ThW 0.2 cm Colour: colourless, opaque white weathered Dating: Flavian
G 7: Plate Inv. 1996/160/7 Context: H2/SR 8, Sond. 4/96 DmR 22 cm, ThW 0.2 cm Colour: colourless, opaque white weathered Dating: Flavian	G 13: Lid Inv. 1996/131/18 Context: H2/SR 8, Sond. 4/96 DmR 5.4 cm, ThW 0.3 cm, H 1.6 cm Colour: colourless, opaque white weathered Dating: Flavian
G 8: Bowl Inv. 1996/50/18 Context: H2/SR 8, Sond. 4/96 DmR 9.5 cm, ThW 0.2 cm Colour: colourless Dating: Flavian	Abbreviations Used in the Catalogue
G 9: Bowl Inv. 1996/74/32 Context: H2/SR 8, Sond. 4/96	Dm Diameter DmR Diameter Rim DmB Diameter Base ThW Thickness Wall H Height H2 Terrace House 2 Inv. Inventory Number Sond. Sondage SR South Room

List of Bibliographical Abbreviations

The citation follows guidelines of the German Archaeological Institute <www.dainst.org> (16.01.2009) and those of the Austrian Archaeological Institute <www.oeai.at/publik/autoren.html> (16.01.2009).

CZURDA-RUTH 1979	B. CZURDA-RUTH, Die römischen Gläser vom Magdalensberg, Archäologische Forschungen zu den Grabungen auf dem Magdalensberg 6 (Klagenfurt 1979).
CZURDA-RUTH 1998	B. CZURDA-RUTH, Die römischen Gläser vom Magdalensberg 2, in: G. PICCOTTINI (ed.), Die Ausgrabungen auf dem Magdalensberg 1980 bis 1986, Magdalensberg-Grabungsbericht 16 (Klagenfurt 1998) 459–507.

- CZURDA-RUTH 2007 B. CZURDA-RUTH, Hanghaus 1 in Ephesos. Die Gläser, FiE 8, 7 (Vienna 2007).
- FÜNFSCHILLING 1999 S. FÜNFSCHILLING, Gläser aus den Grabungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Institutes in Karthago. Die Grabungen ›Quartier Magon‹ und Rue Ibn Chabâat sowie kleinere Sondagen, in: F. RAKOB (ed.), Die Deutschen Ausgrabungen in Karthago, Karthago 3 (Mainz 1999) 435–529.
- GASSNER 1997 V. GASSNER, Das Südtor der Tetragnon-Agora. Keramik und Kleinfunde. FiE 13, 1, 1 (Vienna 1997).
- GROSE 1989 D. F. GROSE, The Toledo Museum of Art. Early Ancient Glass. Core-formed, Rod-formed and Cast Vessels and Objects from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Roman Empire, 1600 BC to AD 50 (New York 1989).
- ISINGS 1957 C. ISINGS, Roman Glass from Dated Finds (Groningen 1957).
- JENNINGS 2000 S. JENNINGS, Late Hellenistic and Early Roman Cast Glass from the Souks Excavation (BEY 006), Beirut, Lebanon, JGS 42, 2000, 41–60.
- LADSTÄTTER 1998 S. LADSTÄTTER, Die Grabungen in der Wohneinheit 2 des Hanghauses 2 von Ephesos, ÖJh 67, 1998, Beibl. 46–50.
- LADSTÄTTER 2000 S. LADSTÄTTER, Ein flavischer Fundkomplex aus dem Hanghaus 2 von Ephesos, ReiCretActa 36 (Abingdon 2000) 97–104.
- LADSTÄTTER 2002 S. LADSTÄTTER, Die Chronologie des Hanghauses 2, in: F. KRINZINGER (ed.), Das Hanghaus 2 von Ephesos. Studien zu Baugeschichte und Chronologie, Aforsch 7 (Vienna 2002) 9–40.
- LADSTÄTTER 2005 S. LADSTÄTTER, Keramik, in: H. THÜR, Das Hanghaus 2 in Ephesos. Die Wohneinheit 4. Baubefund. Ausstattung. Funde, FiE 8, 6 (Vienna 2005) 230–358.
- LADSTÄTTER 2010 S. LADSTÄTTER, Archäologische Nachuntersuchungen, in: F. KRINZINGER (ed.), Das Hanghaus 2 in Ephesos. Die Wohneinheiten 1 und 2. Baubefund, Ausstattung, Funde, FiE 8, 8 (Vienna 2010) 160–171. 527.
- LIERKE 1999 R. LIERKE, Antike Glastöpferei. Ein vergessenes Kapitel der Glasgeschichte (Mainz 1999).
- LIERKE 2002 R. LIERKE, With ›trial and error‹ Through Ancient Glass Technology, in: G. KORDAS (ed.), Hyalos – Vitrum – Glass. History, Technology and Conservation of Glass and Vitreous Materials in the Hellenic World, 1st International Conference, Rhodes, April 1–4, 2001 (Rhodes 2002) 181–186.
- MERIC 2002 R. MERIC, Späthellenistisch-römische Keramik und Kleinfunde aus einem Schachtbrunnen am Staatsmarkt von Ephesos, FiE 9, 3 (Vienna 2002).
- NENNA 1999 M.-D. NENNA, Les Verres, Délos 37 (Paris 1999).
- PRICE 1992 J. PRICE, Glass Vessels and Other Objects, in: L. H. SACKETT, Knossos. From Greek City to Roman Colony, Excavations at the Unexplored Mansion 2, BSA Suppl. 21 (Oxford 1992) 415–462.
- RÜTTI 1991 B. RÜTTI, Die römischen Gläser aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, Forschungen in Augst 13,1 (Augst 1991).
- SCHÄTZSCHOCK 2005 M. SCHÄTZSCHOCK, Glas, in: THÜR 2005, 363–388.
- SCHÄTZSCHOCK 2007 M. SCHÄTZSCHOCK, Glas, in: V. MITSOPOULOS-LEON – C. LANG-AUINGER (ed.), Die Basilika am Staatsmarkt von Ephesos II. Funde klassischer bis römischer Zeit, FiE 9, 2, 3 (Vienna 2007) 217–240.
- SCHÄTZSCHOCK 2010 M. SCHÄTZSCHOCK, Glas, in: F. KRINZINGER (ed.), Das Hanghaus 2 in Ephesos. Die Wohneinheiten 1 und 2. Baubefund, Ausstattung, Funde, FiE 8, 8 (Vienna 2010) 286–321. 592.
- STERN – SCHLICK-NOLTE 1994 E. M. STERN – B. SCHLICK-NOLTE, Early Glass of the Ancient World, 1600 BC–AD 50, Ernesto Wolf Collection (Ostfildern-Ruit 1994).
- STERN 2001 E. M. STERN, Roman, Byzantine and Early Medieval Glass, 10 BCE–700 CE, Ernesto Wolf Collection (Ostfildern-Ruit 2001).
- THÜR 2005 H. THÜR, Hanghaus 2 in Ephesos. Die Wohneinheit 4. Baubefund, Ausstattung, Funde, FiE 8, 6 (Vienna 2005).
- TÖLLE-KASTENBEIN 1974 R. TÖLLE-KASTENBEIN, Das Kastro Tigani, Samos 14 (Bonn 1974).

Sources of Illustrations

Fig. 1–5: photos: N. Gail, © ÖAI; drawings: M. Schätzschock.
Plan: I. Adenstedt.

Mag. Martina Schätzschock
% Institut für Kulturgeschichte der Antike
Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Bäckerstraße 13/1
A–1010 Wien
martina.schaetztschock@oeaw.ac.at

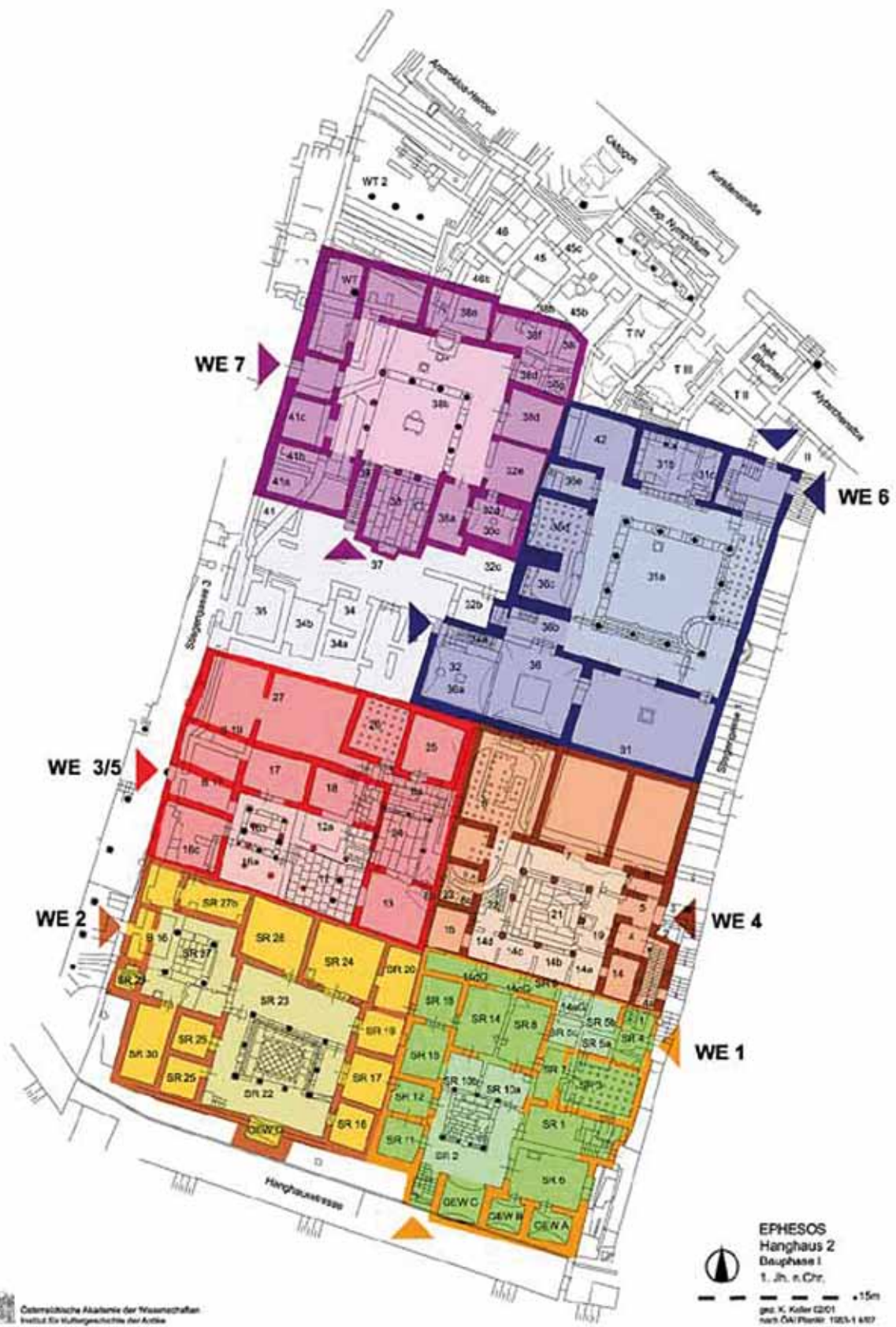


Fig. 1: Terrace House 2



Fig. 2: Ribbed bowl (G 1)

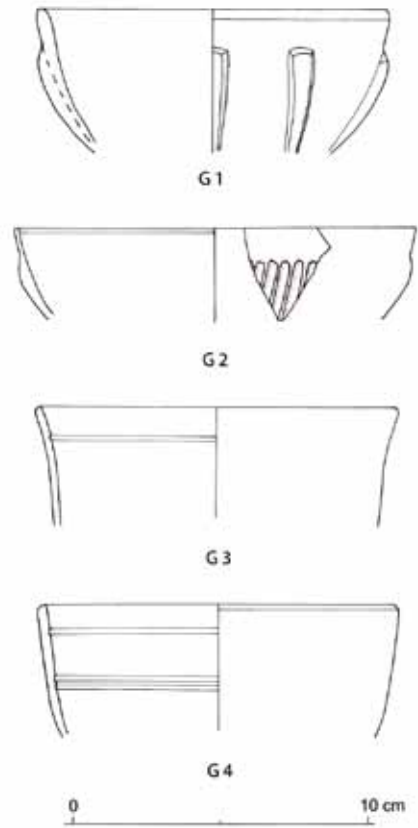


Fig. 3: Early Imperial period: ribbed and linear-cut bowls (G 1–G 4)



Fig. 4: Augustan context: marbled bead (G 5)

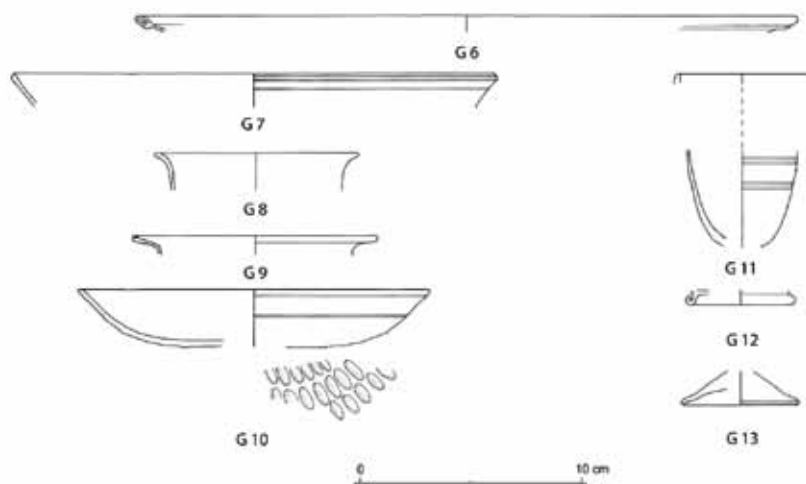


Fig. 5: Flavian period: glass table ware (G 6–G 13)