

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

המכון לארכיאולוגיה

November 18th, 1974

H.N.Chittick
Director
British Institute in Eastern Africa
P.O.Box 47680
Nairobi

Dear Mr. Chittick,

A copy of your letter of May 29th, to Mr. Richard Nicholls reached me through Dr. John Hayes in Toronto. Dr. Hayes suggested that I should write to you directly.

Dr. Hayes asked me whether the beaker type with the oval trails could be of Syro-Palestinian origin. I regret to say that there seems to be no close parallel in the published material from this area and I do not remember to have come across a similar type of Syro-Palestinian origin.

A remote parallel may be a conical beaker in the R.W. Smith collection, said to be from Syria. See:

R.W.Smith: Glass from the Ancient World, The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning 1957 ; Nos. 296 & 305.

I take it that Dr. Harden referred to the parallel from Karanis, published by him in 1936. (Roman Glass from Karanis, Nos. 421-425) This type was eventually ~~produced~~ introduced in the West and two examples were found at Cologne in 1911. See: F. Fremersdorf, "Römische Gläser mit Fadenaufgabe in Köln " Köln 1959: Plates 108 & 109. It stands to reason that this was one of the types introduced in Cologne in the third century A.D. by Alexandrian glass-makers.

The low and broad jar was a fairly common type in Galilee, Phoenicia and Cyprus in the third-fourth centuries A.D. It is known from Egypt as well. Your specimen has a small handle - a phenomenon which I know no parallel for.

I would guess that your glasses reached Aksum from Egypt during the third, or perhaps first half of the fourth century A.D.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Barag

D. Barag