CHAPTER TWELVE

THE ARTEFACTS FROM BUILDING 600

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INTRODUCTION

The number of objects and samples reported from late Byzantine and Early Islamic sites is few when compared with the number studied in final reports of Iron Age sites.1 Although the repertoire of artefacts from Building 600 is limited, it is important to begin the process of not only identifying these finds, but establishing their classes, types, and sub-types. Based on the system developed for the Iron Age artefacts at Tall Jawa, this report will first classify the artefacts in functional classes, and, where possible, in types within each class.2

The principal classes recovered from Building 600 include personal possessions, tools of daily life, natural resources, and luxury items. This study is based on the standards set by several final reports of sites that date to the Byzantine period, especially those concerning the churches of Palestine and Transjordan, such as Capernaum (Tzaferis 1988), Khirbat al-Karak (Delougaz and Haines 1960), Mount Nebo (Saller and Bagatti 1949) and Umm al-Rasas, as well as the synagogues of Galilee, namely, Khirbet Shema' (Meyers et al. 1976), Gush Ḥalav (Meyers et al. 1990), and Meiron (Meyers et al. 1981).

1 Even for Iron Age sites, reports devoted exclusively to the study of small finds are few (for example, Daviau 2002; Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001; Riis and Buhl 1990; Gilmour, in press, a study of objects from Gezer from several chronological periods). For later period sites, the list of small finds by Clark and Bowsher (et al. 1986:264–269) from the North Theatre at Jarash, and the typology of small finds from the late 4th–early 6th century Roman villa of San Giovanni (Simpson 1997) are useful resources.

2 In the catalogue presented below, each object is identified by its registration number (TJ 359) along with its registration information (Field:Square/Pail#, measurements [Length], [Width], [Thickness], [Height], [Diameter], and int Dpt(depth]), and special features.
Of special note is the paucity at Tall Jawa of industrial equipment and food processing tools, such as mortars, pestles, upper and lower millstones, and hammerstones, with the exception of several Iron Age tools which may have been in secondary use. Only one badly worn fragment of a basalt rotary millstone (TJ 441), itself in secondary deposition, can be assigned with certainty to post-Iron II use at the site. In similar fashion, there are no high-status containers, textile production tools, or heavy weights, although the presence of bitumen and sulphur does suggest some type of industrial activity.

A division of finds between the Department of Antiquities and the Tall Jawa Project was held at the end of each season, and the most complete objects (artefacts) were selected by the Department of Antiquities for the National Museum in ‘Amman. The remaining artefacts, along with broken objects, geological samples, and faunal material, were transferred on permanent loan to Wilfrid Laurier University and are housed in the Near Eastern Archaeology Laboratory.

**Artefact Corpus**

**I. Adornment**

**I-A. Jewellery**

*Function:* Artefacts classed as jewellery are those items which are used for personal adornment, especially those that can be put on or around the body. Such objects are made of a variety of materials and vary considerably in size. In the Levant, jewellery was worn during life and after death. The number of items included in this class is small, with the result that only one pendant, a few beads, earrings and bracelet fragments can be tentatively assigned to the late Byzantine–early Islamic occupation.