

RESEARCH ARTICLE/ARAŞTIRMA MAKALESİ

Samples of Roman unguentaria from a typological perspective from the Coastal Region of Syria (Latakia city)

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Abstract

This paper covers a small group of functional types of glass unguentaria dating back to the Roman period that an archaeologist may encounter. Additionally, it primarily presents new, previously unexamined glass specimens unearthed, the unguentaria are classified typologically by shape, and all specimens discussed herein have been recovered from the Syrian Coastal Region (mainly Latakia).

Although the samples of glassware from the Roman period selected by the author may seem insufficient for comprehensive research, the main objective of this article is to provide a reliable presentation of glass unguentaria prevalent throughout Roman Syria at the mentioned sites. In addition, this article provides an explanation, documentation, and classification of Roman period unguentaria pieces based on their archaeological context.

The period from the 1st century to the end of the 3rd century AD is considered to be the height of Roman glass production, usage, and distribution; with glass becoming so ubiquitous in all daily matters of Roman life. Additionally, their use in funerary rites became more prevalent. Academic consensus on the topic of Roman glass in general, and on unguentaria in particular; suggests that they were mainly used to hold and store scented oils, cosmetic products, perfumes, and/or sacred perfumed ointments. Further, the common reoccurrence of π -specimens at burial sites confirms their roles as votive offerings in tombs during funerary religious rites. Despite being commonplace objects, and despite the variations in their styles, research into the location and significance of glass production centers around the Mediterranean remains lacking.

Keywords: Typology, Roman Syria, Unguentaria, Double-bulges, Latakia.

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1. INTRODUCTION

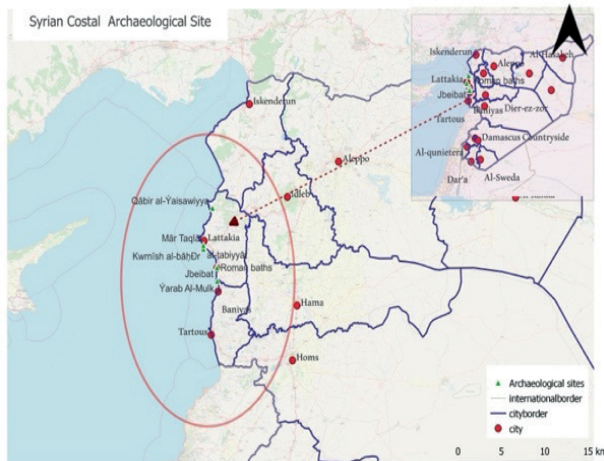


Figure 1. Map of the distribution of the sites in Latakia city, (Map by the author)

The focus of this paper is on documenting and classifying a sample of Roman glass unguentaria of around 14 pieces. These pieces date back to the period from the 1st to the 3rd centuries AD. The specimens have been mainly recovered from sites in and around the Syrian coastal city of Latakia. (see Figure 1).

The provenance of these objects could not be duly established as the circumstances of their recovery are unclear, and no detailed examination of these vessels has been previously conducted. Additional context can be garnered through comparisons made with similar objects dating back to the same periods recovered from other Roman sites.

Moreover, the analysis of the production techniques, colors, quality of materials, and the forming of the different parts of the vessels became a necessary matter in this field. Unfortunately, a thorough typology and analysis on glass artifacts in Syria has not yet been provided. For this reason, the identification of the different types is based mainly on the typology of the glass finds according to the most important typologies, classifications, and methodologies used at the international level of Roman glass studies. (i.e. typologies made by C. Isings, or B. Rütli or Jennifer Price) (Isings, 1957 & Rütli, 1991 & Price, 2000)

Glass unguentaria samples studied herein have all been recovered from Roman burial sites in

and around the city of Latakia through either regular excavation or rescue excavation efforts. Very little detailed information is associated with the recovered pieces, save for some piecemeal data provided in the accompanying excavation reports. Most of the information presented in this study, in addition to the dating of the artefacts, is based on comparanda pieces. (It is important to note that these samples represent a small selection of the artifacts found in local museums; not because they are the most important finds, but because they are the most readily accessible items for drawing/documentation. This is particularly due to the state of the Syrian archaeological heritage during the war. These items are what the author of this article was able to have access to within the current capabilities of the National Museum in Latakia. In reality, the range of Roman period glass artifacts housed at the National Museum is much larger).

It must be noted here that the pieces selected for this study were only whole or complete specimens. This is due to the fact that excavation and documentation efforts at the time of discovery largely ignored glass fragments, “worthless” pieces of broken glass, or small broken shards of glass found in situ. This practice was (and in some cases, still is) common during excavation works in Syria, especially for excavations conducted during the last century. Therefore, it can be very challenging to estimate the number of highly fragmented pieces that have been ignored at any given excavation site.

The primary objective of this study is to focus on documenting and presenting hitherto unpublished specimens of unguentaria and to establish a comprehensive model of unguentaria study that aims to define, identify, and classify such specimens; such that it becomes possible to establish their typological contexts and their function.

The ubiquity, and fragility of glass unguentaria and their widespread presence around the ancient Phoenician Coast leads to the difficulty in understanding their contextual importance. Their diversity of forms and the rate at which they became widely available pose a challenge to the efforts of documenting and understanding

the intricacies of the glass-making industry during the Roman period. The corpus of research on the topic remains lacking with respect to unveiling the location and importance of the production centres of Roman glass around the Mediterranean Sea. (Prior, 2015)

Nevertheless, considerable evidence has established the presence of a type of glass vessel that had originated from around the Phoenician Coast and spread to the ancient world. This evidence was recovered from a number of locations around the Mediterranean in the form of glass objects recovered from burial sites in and around the Syro-Palestinian Coast which was dubbed the Syrian Style Unguentaria. (Kelley, 2012)

2. THE PROVENANCE OF THE MATERIAL

During the Roman period, Latakia was a major seaport. Its most famous landmark was its lighthouse which featured on the city's coins together with the depiction of the personified fortune Tyche of Laodicea. The city remains one of the more prominent Mediterranean port cities with its archeology being the least known amongst its sister cities; especially since most of its ancient structures currently lie underneath the modern city of Latakia (Butcher, 2003 & Bryce, 2014)

With the Syrian coast distinctively flanking most of the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, trade between the settlements along the Syrian coast and the islands of Cyprus and Greece were prominent and extensive throughout history. The proximity of these islands increased the probability of their increased influence on glass fabrication, decoration styles, and usage of raw materials taken from the sand found along the shore. Additionally, this strategic location allowed for the natron trade (sourced from other lands) to flourish, as is documented. (Hatti, 1982)

Furthermore, being that the Syrian coast was home to some of the more prominent and important maritime trade ports, it is safe to assume that these ports were of high significance for the import of the raw material required for the glass making industry to flourish. Also,

they formed an established hub for the trade and export of all glass items of different styles, particularly those in the Syrian style which have been found all around the Roman Empire (date-shaped vessels, vessels with human-head forms, and double-bulge unguentaria. Many finds with distinguishing characteristics have been unearthed, especially in a number of beach-side sites in Latakia –namely at al-Māliyya cemetery, Mār Taqlā and al-shīkh dāhir (see Figures 2-3-4). (al-Badawī, 2018)

Ancient Syria has a long history of the raw materials required for the manufacture of glass and its artisans were responsible for numerous technical and stylistic innovations. Many types belonging to the style of the Syrian coast have been unearthed from a number of cemeteries around the city of Latakia.(Milwright, 2014)

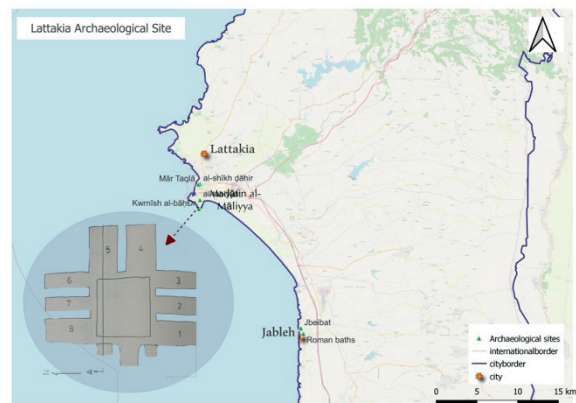


Figure 2. Map of the distribution of al-Māliyya cemetery (Map by the author)

Specimens discussed in this article form part of the collection housed at the National Museum in Latakia. They have been recovered from various sites around the city, and during a number of excavation seasons predominantly date back to the period from the 1st to the 3rd centuries AD and are mostly unornamented unguentaria with no handles. These items show little to no damage. A significant number of Roman period glass objects had been recovered from tombs excavated by the Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums in Latakia. There were typologically classified according to their forms. Dating was done based on comparable artifacts recovered elsewhere and show similar style and established provenance. More often than not, finds and/or entire sites of

archaeological significance are unearthed during major construction projects in and around the city of Latakia. It is a well-known and common occurrence that major archaeological discoveries are made when projects (be it public or private) are carried out within the city. This becomes even more evident by the number of rescue excavation reports available. An example of this incident is the discovery of numerous Roman cemeteries during the works carried out for the Latakia Port expansion project. (Based on Archives of DGAM Report of the Directorate of Excavation and Archaeological Studies unpublished reports).



Figure 3. Map of the distribution of Mār Taqlā tombs (Map by the author)



Figure 4. Map of the distribution of al-shīkh ḍāhir tombs (Map by the author)

3. THE SCOPE OF THE ITEMS

Typically, technical analysis is used to determine the raw materials and manufacturing techniques used in the production of recovered glass artefacts. Unfortunately, the lack of this type of specialized equipment in Syria did not allow for such analysis to be performed.

Consensus on the purpose of these glass vessels is yet to be established. As an example, some glass objects of the same type can sometimes be referred to by different names. In other words, an unguentarium can sometimes be dubbed an ointment bottle, a perfume bottle, or a balsamarium. (Stojanović, 1987) This ignores the fact that sometimes, the same glass items could have been used for different purposes and in different contexts as well.

The type of glass objects described above was referred to historically by many different names, including *Lacrimarium* or *Lacrimatorium*; (The argument that these bottles held the tears of mourners is only supported by written sources (Kelley, 2012.) a name derived from the previously held belief that these vessels were used to collect the tears of mourners. This notion has been completely abandoned nowadays. Another term used by archaeologists is balsamarium derived from the vessels' function.

Furthermore, all specimens described in this study can be characterized as containers used for the holding and storage of valuable liquids and unguents, including perfumes, scented oils, creams, and make-up. (Dévai, 2016)

Besides this function, unguent bottles were also utilized for other religious purposes, especially as votive objects at tombs. (Lafli, 2018)

It was formerly believed that these small unguentarium were designed to be placed with corpses in tombs. They may also have been related to ritual activities, as perfumed oils played a role in the anointment of the body (a funerary ritual at the time). (Khāiry, 1980).

The reasons for the presence of these items in a grave are rarely investigated. Adornment and embalment of the body was intended for the preservation, cosmetic beautification, purification, and, possibly, pacification of the spirit of the deceased. It can be speculated that bottles found in the graves were remnants of funerary activities. Perfumes could have been used as funerary offerings to the deceased too (De jong, 2017).

It has been established that these unguentaria

were also used in primitive medicine. Early physicians would use them to store the raw ingredients needed for potion-making, such as sesame oil. Additionally, they were used to store balsams and oculist's ointments. It has also been shown that unguentaria were used as measuring flasks and beakers for various liquids. Unguentaria are also considered the most common funerary objects to be recovered from Roman tombs. They have been documented in a number of shapes and forms and varying degrees of production quality. Free-blown unguentaria types from earlier periods were found to be relatively commonplace. (Khairy, 1980).

Also, it is worth noting that almost all Roman blown unguentaria have been found to show a pontil scar (A pontil mark is a scar, where the pontil was broken from a work of blown glass. The presence of such a scar indicates that a glass object was blown freehand, while the absence of a pontil mark suggests either that the mark has been obliterated or that the work was mold-blown) This is a mark left on the bottom of the heat-finished rim, blown glass vessels as a result of the production process: a remnant of the glass-blowing technique (Whitehouse, 2015).

No comprehensive typology for unguent bottles in Syria has yet been established. This paper contains a total of four main types of unguentarium documented, these include fusiform, candlestick, bulges, and double bulges types. For an easier overview of the different types, a typological list was made for the different types of unguentaria (see Figure 5).

3.1. Fusiform Type (A)

Referred to as spindle-shaped, or fusiform unguentaria, this the most common of all glass vessels with early examples being similar to the amphoras dating back to between 1st and 3rd centuries AD. This type is generally found in sites dating back to the 1st century AD and were most probably used to store medicine and other powders and liquids. Other daily uses might have been to store cosmetics or as grave goods (Fig 5, Type A). This form's main characteristic is its long, cylindrical neck which expands downward to join its fusiform body. (Kelley, 2012 & Telli, 2019).

These types of objects were found in a variety of shapes with some having long, thin necks, while others a wide, turned lip adorned with lines and inscriptions. Their recovery from various burial structures spanning a large geographical area suggests that they had been quite popular and widely available throughout the Roman provinces. Six specimens of this form are included in this study (Cat. nos. 1-2-3-4-5-6). They are tall, and thin, and had been recovered from Latakia, from al-Maliyya cemetery- and al-shikh dahir sites in Latakia dating to the 1st - 2nd and 3rd centuries AD (Isings form 28a: AR 128). (Isings, 1957 & Rütli, 1991)

3.2. Candlestick Type (B)

Dubbed as candlestick unguent bottles based on their long necks. The general form of this type of glass vessel has a spherical body and is usually a small, indented globular vessel with a long, tubular neck that expands and becomes constricted near the bottom (Fig 5, Type B). These unguentaria have a flat shape, with their bodies having convex sides curving out and down. They also show a concave bottom with tooling groves spiralling around their bodies. Candlestick unguentaria were found to be more common than other types of vessels of the same classifications.

These vessels show uneven bodies with necks often leaning in one direction. A strictly visual analysis shows these unguentaria being generally produced out of lower quality glass than that of other forms, and that it was produced using free blowing. This style originated during the 1st century AD (Isings, 1957) and remained extremely prevalent throughout the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. Items of this style were also recovered and shown to have been used in the west provinces as well. (Fleming, 1998)

Two examples of candlestick unguent bottles are presented here (Isings form 82 A1-2: AR 136-143). (Rütli, 1991) The so-called "Candlestick unguentaria with bell-shaped body" is another example of glass vessels recovered from Mār Taqlā cemetery and was dated to the 3rd century AD (Cat. nos.13-14). It exhibits a mid-sized bottle with a pontil mark made of relatively thick glass similar to other glass artifacts recovered from

other sites dating back to the Roman period in Syria.

Other finds of candlestick unguent bottles have been recovered from sites in what is now Israel and were recovered from tombs, of both public and private contexts. These finds were dated from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD (the height of their use). The archaeological record suggests they had decline in use by the 3rd and 4th centuries AD (Kelley, 2012).

3.3. Bulbous Type (C)

Historically, this particular form of unguentaria remained in production with little to no change for a considerable stretch of time. (Saracoglu, 2011) Dating the first appearance of vessels of this form is quite challenging with minimal information about them being gathered through comparing pieces of the same type. The first examples of this type of unguentaria date back to the 1st century AD and are small in size (2-10 cm in height.) (Rotroff, 2006)

They are distinguished by their slim, short, or long necks and a relatively low maximum diameter. (Fig. 5, Type C) Generally, these vessels were recovered from funerary contexts in locations around the Mediterranean dating to the 2nd century AD.

Examples of this type include four bulbous unguentaria (Cat. nos. 7-8-9-10). They are very small, translucent bluish-greenish, jar-shaped unguent (AR 127-28-29- Isings 28a-26-6), made from a relatively finer thick material. It was made using the free-blown technique similarly to all types of unguent bottles. It dates to the period from the 1st to mid-2nd centuries AD. (Rütti, 1991)

3.4. Double bulges Type (D)

This category is defined simply by a double-bulged body. The shape could have been a local production since it seems to may have spread only in the Syro-Palestine region (Kelley, 2012). Two examples have been inventoried from cemeteries in Latakia from Mār Taqlā (Cat. nos.11-12). No similar examples or matching forms were found according to the Isings classification. The unguent bottles with double

bulges of the same diameter arranged on top of one another from Latakia were dated back to 1st – 2nd centuries AD, (Fig. 5, Type D).

As shown by the examples found in Latakia, the unguentarium type D in our samples were locally produced. The majority were not carefully made and were mostly made from naturally blue or green glass. The items were almost undecorated, with free-blown technique, and with identifiable pontil marks on them. This type had a folded rim, with the same diameter as its base, a long cylindrical neck with double one on top of another but not having the same diameter.

4. CONCLUSION

The quantity and quality of glass finds recovered from Syria are considerably important for understanding the history of the glass-making industry in general, as well as Roman glass production in particular. Despite a lack of proper classification and comprehensive dating efforts; the approach followed in this study was to rely on the international standard of classification and documentation of Roman glass given that glass recovered from Syria does not provide any particularly significant overview of Roman glass.

Many reasons contribute to the deterioration and damage of glass artifacts housed within the Syrian museums in general, and those in the cities of the Coastal Region in particular. These are mainly environmental and geographical (unsuitable storage locations, for instance). Human factors also contribute to damaging artefacts as well including war, lack of professional scientific practices, and inadequate preservation and restoration efforts as well.

Modern-day excavation and archaeological efforts have expanded our knowledge of the significance of glass objects in Roman Syria, especially pertaining to the funerary context. Further conclusions gleaned by the discoveries made at the Latakia cemeteries suggest that even families of a lower socio-economic status used glass in their funerary rituals.

Typological analysis was employed for the study of glass vessels recovered from sites around Syria and dating back to the Roman period.

Specimens considered for this study were found in sites belonging to the periods ending around the 3rd century AD; a period during which glass was a commonplace commodity throughout the provinces around the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, as has been shown in the various types found and documented.

However, it is safe to say that the items examined in this study represent a very small part of the vastly diverse number of glass items unearthed from Latakia; and they are not suitable for any kind of historical and economic conclusions. This will be left for further study and research in the future.

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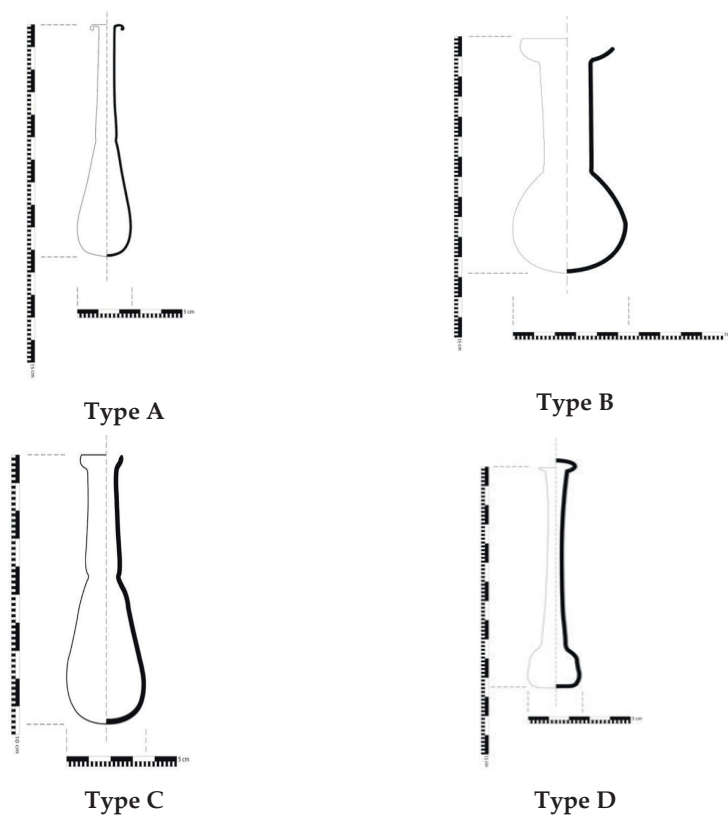


Figure 5. Typology of unguentaria (Drawn by the author)

**Cat. 01****Unguentaria type:** A / Fusiform

AR130.2/2309-Isings 8

Date: 1st, early 2nd centuries AD.

H. 10.3 cm, D. rim. 2 cm, thickness 0,1 cm.

Color: Translucent greenish.

Latakia Museum collection/ Madāfin al-Māliyya 2005. Inv No: 1240/49

Description: Translucent greenish, folded out, fine rim with a flaring mouth. cylindrical neckmarked by a tool indent around its base, elongated piriform body curving into the bottom with a deep juggled pontil mark. The unguentarium increases in diameter as it descends from the neck and reaches a maximum size of 4.1 cm across.

Condition: Intact, there are no chips, cracks, significant scratches, or any obvious evidence of restoration. The unguentarium shows significant iridescence due to the time it spent underground.

**Cat.02****Unguentaria type:** A/ Fusiform

AR130.2/2309-Isings 8

Date: 1st to 2nd centuries AD

H. 9,1 cm, D. rim. 1,7 cm, thickness 0,1 cm.

Color: Pale bluish.

Latakia Museum collection/ Madāfin al-Māliyya 2005. Inv No: 1242/51

Description: pale blue, with a folded lip turning out, over, then back in, flattened on its upper surface, flaring mouth, cylindrical pinched neck, with a slightly downward taper, with deep tool markings around its base, elongated piriform body, small flattened but uneven bottom.

Condition: Complete, fully intact, with many minute bubbles and striations resulting from the blowing process dulling, covered in slight pits and bright iridescent weathering.

**Cat.03****Unguentaria type:** A/ Fusiform

AR 130/2308 - Isings 28a/b

Date: 2nd- 3rd centuries AD

H. 8,4 cm, D. rim. 2,9 cm, thickness 0,2 cm.

Color: Translucent yellowish.

Latakia Museum collection/ al-shīkh ḍāhir 2008/ anti chamber/eastern corner. Inv No: 8

Description: Translucent light yellow. with a folded rim turning out, over, then back in. A beveled upper surface, the neck cylindrical in shape and expands downwards with tool markings around its base, slender conical body, and a small, concave bottom, thick-walled, with jagged pontil mark.

Condition: Intact, brilliantly iridescent, with tiny patches of a creamy weathering.

**Cat.04****Unguentaria type:** A/ Fusiform

AR 130/2308 - Isings 28a/b

Date: 1st- 2nd centuries AD

H. 11,4 cm, D. rim. 3,4 cm, thickness 0,2 cm.

Color: Translucent bluish.

Latakia Museum collection/ al-shīkh ḍāhir 1994. Inv No: 5444/49

Description: Translucent light blue, slanting rim that folds out, then over and in; and flat on top, with irregular opening to its mouth, tall cylindrical neck, expanding lightly downward and tool markings around its base, slender conical body, small, concave bottom, thick-walled.

Condition: Intact. and brilliant iridescent weathering.

**Cat.05****Unguentaria type A/ Fusiform**

AR 130/2308 - Isings 28a/b

Date: 1st- 2nd centuries AD.

H. 10,3 cm, D. rim. 2,8 cm, thickness 0,2 cm.

Color: Translucent bluish.Latakia Museum collection/ al-shīkh dāhir 1994.
Inv No: 5445/50**Description:** Translucent and light blue in color. Rim folded up and back inward, with a beveled upper surface, a tall neck cylindrical in shape that expands slightly downward with tool markings around its base, slender conical body, small, concave bottom.**Condition:** Intact, with some signs of aging on the surface. Some areas of iridescence and encrustation.**Cat.06****Unguentaria type A/ Fusiform**

AR130.2/2309-Isings 8

Date: 1st to 2nd centuries AD.

H. 9,9 cm, D. rim. 1,9 cm, thickness 0,1 cm.

Color: Pale bluish.Latakia Museum collection/ al-Māliyya cemetery
2005. Inv No: 1243/52**Description:** Lopsided rim folded out, over, and in, then pressed to form a flat, slender neck cylindrical in shape, constricting slightly where it meets the body, small concave bottom with a slight pontil mark.**Condition:** Complete, intact, minute bubbles and striation from the blowing process, dulling pitting, areas of iridescent weathering on the exterior, and some cracks to the neck.**Cat.07****Unguentaria type C/ Bulbous**

AR128.2/2267-Isings 28a

Date: Early to mid-imperial, 1st, early 2nd centuries AD.

H. 7 cm, D. rim. 1,8 cm, thickness 0,1 cm.

Color: Pale bluish.Latakia Museum collection/ al-Māliyya cemetery
2005. Inv No: 1246/55**Description:** Pale bluish, thick rim that folds out, over and in, and flattens at the top, a neck cylindrical in shape with a band of tool markings around the base, bulbous body, with a slightly concave base and a rough pontil mark.**Condition:** Intact, small pressure fissures along the neck, with light areas of iridescence enveloping, age-commensurate surface wear, and light earthen deposits.**Cat.08****Unguentaria type C/ Bulbous**

AR 127/2257- Isings 26a

Date: Early to mid-imperial, 1st, early 2nd century AD.

H. 4,3 cm, D. rim. 1,6 cm, thickness 0,1 cm.

Color: Pale bluish.Latakia Museum collection/ al-Māliyya cemetery
2005. Inv No: 1247/56**Description:** Slanting rim that folds out, over and in, and flattens at the top, an irregular opening to the mouth, cylindrical neck with tool markings around the base, a conical body, that curves in sharply to slightly concave bottom.**Condition:** Complete, small hairlines visible on the surface, otherwise intact. Encrustation and iridescence cover the surface.

**Cat.09**

Unguentaria type: C/ Bulbous

AR 129/ 2269- Isings 28a

Date: 1st -2nd centuries AD.

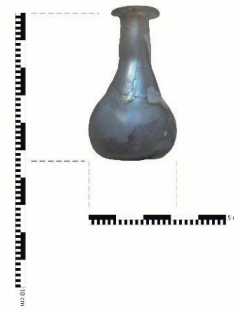
H. 9,6 cm, D. rim. 2,5 cm, thickness 0,2 cm.

Color: Pale bluish.

Latakia Museum collection/ al-Māliyya cemetery 2005. Inv No: 1241/50

Description: Pale deep blue, Rim folds out, and back in, with a beveled upper surface, a pinched neck cylindrical in shape with tooled indentations around its base, piriform body, curving into the bottom, with deep jagged pontil mark.

Condition: Intact, patches of brilliant iridescence on the exterior, and light earthen deposits.

**Cat.10**

Unguentaria type: C/ Bulbous

AR 127/2257- Isings 6

Date: 1st-2nd centuries AD.

H. 5,4 cm, D. rim. 1,8 cm, thickness 0,2 cm.

Color: Translucent bluish.

Latakia Museum collection/ al-shikh dāhir 1994. Inv No: 5451/56

Description: Translucent pale blue. Rim that folds out, slightly down, over and back inward, with a flattened upper surface, cylindrical neck, with tool markings around the base, convex sloping shoulder with tool marking below, very short bulbous body, flat bottom with traces of pontil mark.

Condition: Broken and repaired, with many cracks, small areas of near-white weathering, and iridescence on the exterior, soil encrustation and whitish weathering on interior.

**Cat.11**

Unguentaria type: D/ Double bulges

Date: 1st - 2nd centuries AD.

H. 10,9 cm, D. rim. 1,8 cm, thickness 0,1 cm.

Color: Translucent bluish

Latakia Museum collection/ Mār Taqlā 1995,. Inv No: 5502

Description: Translucent bluish, tall, tubular neck slightly widens at the top with spreading rim folded over on top and with a tooled angle at the bottom, that swells out forming a double sphere body with differing diameters; slightly pushed in base, with pontil scar, made of relatively thick glass.

Condition: Intact, some bubbles, dulling, and earthen deposits cover the whole body.

**Cat.12**

Unguentaria type: D/ Double bulges

Date: 1st- 2nd centuries AD.

H. 11,5 cm, D. rim. 2 cm, thickness 0,2 cm.

Color: Translucent greenish bluish.

Latakia Museum collection/ Mār Taqlā II, 2006, Cemetery II, Anti chamber. Inv No: 447

Description: Translucent greenish bluish; rim folded out; over back inward; with a beveled upper surface; high straight neck; double bulge body; top of each other differing in diameter; slightly concave base. Made of relatively thick glass.

Condition: Complete, intact, and iridescence covers the whole surface

**Cat.13**

Unguentaria type: F/ Candlestick unguentaria.

AR143-Isings 82 A1

Date: Mid imperial 2nd- 3rd centuries AD.

H. 11,8 cm, D. rim. 3,5 cm, thickness 0,3 cm.

Color: Pale greenish.

Latakia Museum collection/ Mār Taqlā II, 2006. Inv No: 496.

Description: A pale green. with a folded out rim, that turns over, and back in, and has a beveled outer edge, broad, flaring mouth, a tall neck cylindrical in shape, that expands slightly downward with tool markings around the base and on the small horizontal shoulder, squat sloping body with convex sides and concave bottom

Condition: Intact, pinprick and blowing striations, dulling, pitting, and patches of iridescent weathering on exterior, soil encrustation.

**Cat.14**

Unguentaria type: F/ Candlestick unguentaria.

AR 136/2367-Isings 82 A2

Date: 1st to mid-2nd centuries AD.

H. 8,5 cm, D. rim. _ cm, thickness 0,1 cm.

Color: Colorless.

Latakia Museum collection/ Mār Taqlā I, 2007, Cemetery I, Anti chamber. Inv No: 483

Description: Colorless with a greenish tinge, horizontal rounded broken rim showing a slight vertical lip on its top edge, a broken neck cylindrical in shape with tooled indentations around its base, squat conical body with the rounded edge at the base, pushed in the bottom with central pontil mark.

Condition: Intact but broken and missing some parts from rim and neck, dulling, pitting and areas of iridescent weathering on exterior.

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Note of Transcription: Transcription of Arabic means rendering Arabic with Latin characters. Transcription is used to smoothly quote an Arabic word or expression in a text that is otherwise written in English or another language with Latin characters, especially if the intended readership does not master Arabic (general linguists, literary historians, or critics). Transcription is also a straightforward way of stating the pronunciation if the original Arabic text is unvocalized. I used in this paper some Arabic names; thus, you can notice the transcription in the bibliography and footnotes.