

Glass Vessels from Kurul Kalesi

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Öz

Kurul Kalesi Cam Buluntuları

Bu çalışmada, Doğu Karadeniz Bölgesi'nde Ordu'nun Bayadı Köyü sınırları içinde bulunan Kurul Kalesi kazılarında 2010-2022 yılları arasında tespit edilen camlar tipolojik özellikleri ve ele geçtikleri arkeolojik kontekstler bağlamında irdelenmektedir. Daha erken dönemlere tarihlenen (MÖ 4. yüzyıl) az sayıda küçük buluntu ele geçmiş olsa da, yaklaşık MÖ 65-63 yıllarındaki Roma yenilgisiyle terkedilmiş olan kalenin en güçlü yerleşim evresi VI. Mithradates Eupator dönemine (MÖ 120-63) tarihlenmektedir. Yerleşim, askeri fonksiyonunun yanı sıra kült alanlarına da sahip olması nedeniyle cam buluntuları da içeren zengin bir küçük buluntu koleksiyonu ortaya koymaktadır. Kalede tespit edilen cam buluntuların içinde iç kalıp tekniğinde üretilmiş şişe parçaları, renksiz döküm cam tabak/kase?, opak mavi cam kase parçaları, reticella ve mozaik kaseler gibi lüks mamüller öne çıkmaktadır. Ancak, Geç Hellenistik Dönem'de çok geniş bir coğrafyaya dağılım gösteren oluklu kaseler de dönemin tipik formları olarak buluntular arasında yerini almaktadır. Kalede tespit edilen ve çoğunluğunu dönemin lüks camlarının oluşturduğu buluntuların benzer örnekler doğrultusunda Doğu Akdeniz ve Ege Adaları ile ilişkili üretimler oldukları saptanabilmektedir. Cam buluntuların açığa çıkarıldığı alanlar İç Kale, Kuzey Teras, Depo odaları, oturan Kybele heykelinin bir niş içerisinde bulunduğu alan ve çevresi, Dionysos Kült Alanı, Taş Yığma ve İdari Yapı olarak adlandırılan mekanlar olarak sıralanabilir. Bu cam vazolarla birlikte takıları oluşturan çok sayıda cam boncuk tanesi de buluntular arasında yerini almaktadır. Cam vazoların bir kısmının ve boncukların ise büyük çoğunluğunun Kybele ve özellikle Dionysos'a bırakılmış farklı materyallerden üretilmiş çok çeşitli nesnelere birlikte adak eşyaları arasında yerini aldıkları söylenmelidir. Bu durum Kurul Kale-

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si'nde tespit edilen cam nesnelerin büyük bölümünün günlük kullanımla ilişkilendirilmesi ihtimalini zayıflatırken, tanrılara adak olarak bırakılmış olmaları yönündeki düşüncelerimizi daha da kuvvetlendirmektedir. Bu camlar, Kurul Kalesi kazılarında kadar Anadolu'nun Doğu Karadeniz kıyısında şimdiye dek hiç kaydedilmemiş bazı buluntuları içermektedir. Bu sebeple, Kurul Kalesi kazılarında Hellenistik Dönem'e tarihlenen camların ele geçmesi bu cam mamüllerin yayılım alanlarını belirlememize ve yeni bilgiler ortaya koymamıza yardımcı olması açısından son derece önemlidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Hellenistik Dönem, Kurul Kalesi, Antik Dönemde Cam, Mozaik Cam, Millefiori, Reticella.

Abstract

In this study the glass vessels found during the excavations of Kurul Kalesi in the Eastern Black Sea Region (Ordu Province, Bayadı Village) in the years 2010-2022 will be examined within the context of their typological features and archaeological contexts. Although a couple of small finds dating to earlier times (4th century BC) have been discovered in the fortress, the strongest settlement phase belongs to the reign of Mithradates VI Eupator (120-63 BC) before the town was abandoned after the Roman defeat in c. 65-64 BC. The fact that the settlement had cultic as well as military areas presents a rich collection of small finds including many glass vessels. Among the glass finds found in the fortress, luxury products such as core-formed bottles, undecorated colourless cast bowl/plate (?), opaque blue bowl fragments, reticella and mosaic bowls stand out. However, grooved bowls, which were distributed over a wide geography in the Late Hellenistic Period, are also among the finds as typical forms of the period. It can be concluded that the glass vessels found in the fortress consisting mostly of luxury glasses of their time are the productions of the Eastern Mediterranean and Aegean Islands. The findspots where the glass finds are unearthed can be listed as the Inner Fortress, the Northern Terrace, Storage Rooms, the cultic area where the famous marble statue of Kybele was found representing the goddess sitting on her throne within a niche and its surroundings, Dionysus Sanctuary, the area under a pile of stones (an area covered with stacked stones after losing its cultic function, including votive items inside it) and Administrative Buildings Area. In addition to glass vessels, many glass beads of different colours and shapes are among the glass finds of the fortress. Some of the glass vessels as well as the beads were votive objects offered to Kybele and especially Dionysus. This situation reveals that most of the glass objects found in Kurul Kalesi did not have any function in daily life but were votive objects. These glasses include some vessels that have never been recorded in the Eastern Black Sea coast of Anatolia until the excavations in Kurul Kalesi. For this reason, glass vessel dating back to the Hellenistic period found in the excavations in Kurul Kalesi is extremely important for helping us to determine the distribution areas of these glass products and reveal new information.

Keywords: Hellenistic Period, Kurul Kalesi, Ancient Glass, Mosaic Glass, Millefiori, Reticella.

Glass Vessels

Excavations at Kurul Kalesi started in 2010 under the scientific direction of Prof. S. Yücel Şenyurt¹ and continue until the present day (fig. 1). The architectural remains unearthed during the excavations were classified according to their functional purposes as domestic, storage, military and cultic². Numerous finds discovered in these structures including glass vessels provide important archaeological data for the settlement history of the site and of the region in the Hellenistic Period.

The majority of glass finds recorded in the Black Sea region dating from the 5th to the 3rd century BC are obtained from the excavations in the Northern Black Sea³. From the Anatolian Black Sea coast Amisos (Samsun) is the only site yielding glass finds belonging to the above-mentioned period⁴. The objective of our study is to present Kurul Kalesi as another settlement center on the Black Sea coast of Turkey, producing Hellenistic glass finds.

The glass vessels of Kurul Kalesi include the characteristic bowls of the Hellenistic period, as well as some fine glass vessels which are considered as luxury items of their time, consisting of fragments of core-formed bottles, striped-mosaic bowls, reticella bowls, grooved bowls and an undecorated colourless bowl. In addition to these glass vessels, nearly a hundred glass beads reflecting the characteristics of the Hellenistic period in terms of colour, form and decoration are also among the finds of the fortress. This study will focus on the glass vessels found in Kurul Kalesi excavations.

Core-formed bottle fragments

As it is known, the core forming technique is one of the main methods used for the production of glass vessels since the beginning of the Bronze Age. Among the Kurul glasses, there are two fragments of core-formed bottles typical for the Hellenistic period (fig. 2a, fig. 2b). One of them belongs to the cylindrical neck of a bottle with a dark blue background bordered by an opaque yellow band on the shoulder and decorated with an opaque yellow and white zig-zag pattern (fig. 2a). The vertical indentations and the zig-zag thread decorations starting from the shoulder are clearly visible. There is no decoration on the neck. The bottle fragment was found together with a reticella bowl fragment (fig. 5a) in a storage room called Building 5 by the excavators on the Northern Terrace Area of the fortress. The discovery of two Rhodian stamped amphora handles in this building dating to the 2nd and 1st centuries BC, as well as many contemporary Hellenistic pottery provide data for the dating of

1 The systematic excavations at Kurul Kalesi have been carried out since 2010 by a team under the scientific direction of Prof. S. Yücel Şenyurt and under the presidency of the Ordu Museum Directorate. I would like to thank Prof. S. Yücel Şenyurt for giving me the opportunity to study the glass objects of Kurul Kalesi.

2 Akçay – Bulut 2022, 175-224.

3 Tanais Necropolis: Glebow et al. 2005; Olbia: Puklina 2010, 487-497; Colchis (Pichvnari Necropolis): Giorgadze – Inaishvili 2017, 157,160.

4 Jackson 2012, 113-114.

the glass vessels⁵.

The dark blue (appearing black) glass fragment belonging to another core-formed bottle was discovered during the excavations of 2011 in the Inner Fortress Area. It is a body fragment with opaque white festoon decoration (fig. 2b). Considering its colour and decoration, it can be suggested that it resembles the glass alabastrons dated to the 2nd and 1st centuries BC⁶. However, the small size of fragments makes it difficult to determine the shapes and exact dates of these vessels.

Cast colorless bowl

In the history of glass, it was concluded that the earliest colourless glass were produced in the 8th-7th centuries BC in the Neo-Assyrian region. Colourless vessels were continued to be made until the end of the 5th century BC and by the 4th century BC, an increase in the production of colorless glass was recorded. Examples of many glass bowls were found in a number of sites from the northern Black Sea to Africa, Rhodes, Macedonia and Anatolia, generally from elite burials. These vessels, which were made of both metal and glass are famous for appearing on the reliefs of Apadana in Persepolis defined as artefacts of Achaemenid style⁷. In Rhodes which was one of the important glass production centres of the Classical and Hellenistic periods, along with the Achaemenid style undecorated ones appear in the 4th-early 3rd centuries BC⁸. It is suggested that these undecorated transparent glass vessels produced in Rhodes during the Late Classical-Early Hellenistic period typologically affected the products of the Rhodian Hellenistic glass workshop and had an influence on the development of the undecorated transparent glass plates⁹.

Kurul Kalesi 2011 excavations yielded three cast yellowish colourless glass fragments probably belonging to the same bowl which were found at the Inner Fortress Area (fig. 3). The diameter of the everted rim was 11 cm. Its inner surface is matte, but the outer surface looks polished. Considering its other preserved body and bottom fragments, it is clear that there is no decoration on the surface. The wall thickness of the bowl becomes slightly thinner from the rim to the bottom.

The Kurul bowl is typologically comparable to the undecorated transparent products of the Rhodian Late Classical-Early Hellenistic glass workshop and their Hellenistic successors¹⁰. However, some differences are observed as a result of the comparison of the Rhodian glasses and the bowl of the Kurul Kalesi. Unlike the Kurul bowl, in the Late Classical-Early Hellenistic Rhodi-

5 Yorulmaz 2019, 331, kat. no. 287, 288.

6 Hayes 1975, pl. 2.27, 28; Harden 1981, pl. XIX.340, 343; Grose 1989, no. 167; Israeli 2003, 63, no. 57; Adam-Veleni (ed.) 2010, 383, no 445.

7 Erten 1996, 312-313; Triantafyllidis 2000b, 195-196; Ignatiadou 2002; Taştēmür 2013, 66-67.

8 Triantafyllidis 2008, Triantafyllidis 2000a; Triantafyllidis 2000b.

9 Triantafyllidis 2000b, 197-200, tab. II. nr. 16-22.

10 Triantafyllidis 2000b, 197-200, tab. II. nr. 16-22; Triantafyllidis 2008; Triantafyllidis 2000a; Triantafyllidis 2000b.

an bowls¹¹, there is no thinning on the glass wall from the body to the bottom. In the Rhodes sample, dated to the 3rd-2nd century BC¹², while there is a thinning towards the bottom of the body, as in the Kurul bowl, the body profile has sharper lines. Although a clear analog of it has not been found, the Kurul bowl must have been used in the Hellenistic Period, like the Rhodian samples mentioned above and the other glass finds found in the Kurul Kalesi.

Striped-mosaic bowls

Another glass vessel group found in Kurul Kalesi belongs to a group which can be considered as the luxury goods of the Hellenistic period, i.e. the striped- mosaic bowls. They consist of four fragments, two rims, a bottom and a base, belonging striped-mosaic bowls. The study of the glass rods used for the production of each vessel shows that all fragments belong to different vessels.

The rim fragment made of brown, green, opaque white and opaque light blue glass strips (fig. 4a) belongs to a bowl with a diameter of 12 cm and its rim surrounded by an opaque light blue and opaque white spiral glass thread. Although the lower part of the bowl is missing, it can be suggested that it had a ring base, through the mosaic bowls found in the Antikythera shipwreck¹³, the Tripoli bowl¹⁴ and the bowl in the British Museum collection of which the location was identified as the Greek Islands¹⁵. In addition, many bowl fragments with everted rims were also found at Delos, although it is not clear from the preserved parts whether they were ring-based or not¹⁶. This mosaic bowl (fig. 4a) was found in the Dionysus Sanctuary in the fortress together with many various glass beads dating to the same period. Similar bowls and the context in which it was found, enable us to date this bowl to the second half of the 2nd century BC or the first half of the 1st century BC.

The other rim fragment belongs to a hemispherical bowl with a vertical rim, made of glass strips of different colours; opaque white, opaque yellow, translucent green, blue and brown (fig. 4b). It is a small bowl with a diameter of 8.2 cm. The rim is surrounded by a band of opaque yellow, opaque white and brown spiral glass thread. Unlike the previous sample, it was found in Building 3 from the Administrative Buildings Area. The bowl has parallels in the Antikythera Shipwreck¹⁷ finds, Ernesto Wolf Collection¹⁸ and the Metropolitan Museum of Art¹⁹. The general characteristics of these type bowls can be specified as small size, hemispherical form, vertical rim and ring base. As the lower part of the Kurul bowl is not preserved, it is impossible to make a

11 Triantafyllidis 2000b, 156-165, tab. II. nr. 16-21.

12 Triantafyllidis 2000b, 166, 167, tab. II. nr. 22.

13 Oliver 1968, 55-57; Avronidaki 2012, 141-42, no. 105-109.

14 Cingolani 2015, 17, fig.3.

15 Tatton-Brown – Andrews 1991: 56, nr.65.

16 Nenna 1999, 46-47, pl.3. B74-B82, pl.62. B74-82.

17 Avronidaki 2012, nr. 104, 114.

18 Stern – Schlick-Nolte 1994, 298-99, nr. 86.

19 Grose 1989, 196, fig. 112.

full-reconstruction of the form including the shape of the base. However the preserved ring base of another mosaic bowl (fig. 4c) from Kurul Kalesi proves that the mosaic bowls may have had ring bases.

Two other base (fig. 4c) and bottom (fig. 4d) fragments belonging to two striped mosaic bowls from Kurul Kalesi have different characteristics than the above-mentioned examples due to their colour combinations. One of them is a ring base with a diameter of ca. 4 cm, made of opaque white, opaque yellow, translucent green and blue glass (fig. 4c). The preserved part of the body indicates the use of same glass material was used also for the rest of the vessel. The other fragment with purple, opaque white, green, blue and yellow glass stripes is the flat bottom of a bowl with a diameter of ca. 4.5 cm, (fig. 4d). It was found in the Building 2 in the east of the Northern Terrace Area of the fortress. No parallels of this vessel has yet been found but, it can be considered as one of the typical Late Hellenistic polychrome mosaic bowls, like the examples above.

Reticella bowls

The group consisting of vessels produced in reticella technique is considered as one of the luxury glass groups of the Hellenistic and Early Roman Imperial Period. The earliest reticella bowls with hemispherical bodies, vertical rims and convex bottoms appear among the finds from Canosa in southern Italy and are dated to a time period from the end of the 3rd century BC to the beginning of the 2nd century BC²⁰. Another group of reticella bowls come from a later group of luxury glass of the Antikhytera shipwreck belonging to 80-50 BC. which differs from the earlier Canosa group in terms of their characteristically small sizes, hemispherical bodies and ring-bases²¹.

Reticella bowl fragments are also among the luxury glass finds unearthed in the excavations of Kurul Kalesi (fig. 5.a-f). These bowl fragments were found in different sectors such as Building 5/Storage Room (fig. 5a), the area under the pile of stones (fig. 5b), Dionysus Sanctuary (fig. 5c), Building 12 in the west of the Northern Terrace Area (fig. 5.d, f), and Building 2 in the east of the Northern Terrace Area (fig. 5e).

Reticella bowls found during the excavations of the fortress include the fragments of four rims, a base and a body. The bowls have vertical rims, hemispherical bodies and rims having diameters of ca. 9-10 cm (fig. 5a-c). Except for one (fig. 5f), all others were produced by glass rods with two opaque white glass strips within light green transparent glass. It can be suggested that these fragments belong to different bowls, considering the way the opaque white threads embrace the green glass in glass rods, their density and their thickness.

When forming the rim of the reticella bowls, generally glass threads differing from the body were used. However, a remarkable detail of Kurul frag-

20 Stern – Schlick-Nolte 1994, 71-72, abb 103,124; Lierke 1999, 39-41.

21 Grose 1984, 30-31; Avronidaki 2012.

ments is the use of the spiral glass threads in all rims having same colours with bodies (fig. 5a-d).

The ring-base of a reticella bowl found during the excavations of 2018, is the only base fragment recorded in the fortress (fig. 5e). The transparent green ring base has a diameter of 6 cm. It was applied to the lower part of the body made of opaque white and transparent green glass strips similar to the rim fragments. Considering the parallels of these bowls belonging to the first half of the 1st century BC, the Kurul example can be dated to the same period and it must have an Eastern Mediterranean origin, like the bowls with ring bases found in the Antikythera shipwreck²².

Another reticella bowl fragment found during the excavations of 2019, is a body fragment with yellowish glass and opaque yellow twist strips, unlike the samples mentioned above and it differs from other samples in terms of colour combination (fig. 5f). However, the possibility that these bowls may have been produced in the same centre should be considered, based on the characteristics such as the colour combinations of light green and opaque white glass used in the majority of Kurul finds and the presence of a glass threads sharing same colours both on the body and rim.

Opaque blue monochrome bowl fragments and beads

Two fragments belonging to opaque light blue glass bowls are among the finds of Kurul Kalesi. One of them is a rim fragment found in 2018 in Building 2, at the east of the Northern Terrace Area (fig. 6a). The other is a body fragment that came from the excavations of the Northern Terrace Area in 2017 (fig. 6b). Although they were found in two different locations, these fragments may belong to the same vessel as they share very similar colour and texture but because of the deformation caused by being exposed to high temperature (fig. 6b), it is difficult to make an exact suggestion. However, it is significant that the opaque light blue glass used for the production of these fragments have similar colour and tone characteristics with the blue stripes of the mosaic bowl (fig. 4a), some beads (fig. 6c-g) and a game piece (fig. 6h) from Kurul Kalesi suggesting a common production center for all these glass objects.

These unusual opaque light blue products which are relatively rare in the Hellenistic contexts, appear in Delos²³, Tell Anafa²⁴, Knossos²⁵ and Jerash²⁶ as well as in Kyme²⁷ and Muğla/Tınaz²⁸ in Anatolia. It is important to note that an opaque blue cast bowl from Tınaz (M2/98) was found together with two Rhodian coins dated to 88-43 BC²⁹.

²² Grose 1984, 30-31; Avronidaki 2012.

²³ Nenna 1999, 67.

²⁴ Grose 2012, 25.

²⁵ Price 1990, 28.

²⁶ Dussart – Velde 1990: 690, fig. 2.1; Dussart 1998, 51, pl.1. AII.12.

²⁷ Bouzek 1974, 169-171; Venclová et al. 2018, 1-10.

²⁸ Çakmaklı 2012.

²⁹ Çakmaklı 2012, 83.

Delos is an important site among the centres where the objects made from opaque blue glasses were found. Fifty-five opaque light blue fragments found at Delos constitute the richest group of finds unearthed in a centre. The large number of these fragments also make possible to identify basic vessel forms made of opaque blue glass. It was determined that some blue vessels also were decorated with grooves, such in the characteristic grooved bowls of the Hellenistic Period³⁰. Based on the number of finds of opaque blue glass at the site and the presence of some semi-finished products and waste glass discovered in Delos, M. D. Nenna suggests that the opaque blue glass objects may have been produced in Delos. The glass finds discovered at Delos are dated to between 125-69 BC³¹. Opaque light blue bowl fragments from Kurul Kalesi can be dated by considering the parallels mentioned above. The suggested dating for the fragments of Tinaz (88-43 BC), Jerash (after the second half of the 2nd century BC) and Delos (125-69 BC) corresponds to the reign of Mithradates VI Eupator (120-63 BC) when Kurul Kalesi was intensively occupied.

In addition, it was determined that opaque blue bowl fragments and beads of the same colour texture characteristics were found in the interrelated areas of the fortress. The beads in fig. 6c and fig. 6g are from Building 2 in the east of the Northern Terrace Area like the rim fragment in fig. 6a; two beads in fig. 6d and fig. 6e are from the Dionysos Sanctuary, like the mosaic bowl in fig. 4a; fig. 6f is from an area under a pile of stones (an area covered with stacked stones after losing its cultic function, including votive items inside it)³². The game piece in fig. 6h is from the cultic area where the marble statue representing Kybele sits on her throne within a niche on the southern wall of the Fortress gate. Based on this situation, it can be suggested that most of these opaque blue bowls and beads are the votive items, together with a large variety of objects made from different materials and left as offers to Kybele and especially Dionysus³³.

Grooved bowls

In addition to the the luxury glass vessels mentioned above, fragments of grooved bowls typical for the Late Hellenistic findspots were discovered during the Kurul Kalesi excavations.

The eight grooved bowl finds compose of six rim and two body fragments. They belong to the hemispherical (fig. 7b), conical (fig. 7a, c, e) and everted rimmed deep bowls (fig. 7g, h) and the measurable rim diameters are 17.6 cm (fig. 7b) for the hemispherical bowl, 17 cm (fig. 7a) and 14 cm (fig. 7c) for the conical bowls, 18.5 (fig. 7g) and 15.2 cm (fig. 7h) for the everted-rimmed bowls. The horizontal grooves on the inner surfaces of each fragment differ in number and frequency. As the bowls was exposed to high

30 Nenna 1999, 67.

31 Nenna 1993, 15, 21.

32 Şenyurt et al. 2019, 702.

33 Şenyurt et.al. 2020, 505-516.

temperature during a fire, the deformation on the surface of fig. 7d makes it difficult to identify the grooves on their surfaces. Another fragment (fig. 7f) made of colourless glass belongs to the lower body of a bowl and the groove can only be seen on the outer surface.

Conclusion

The excavations carried out in Kurul Kalesi reveal that the site was a military garrison (*phourion*) on the Pontus Mountains³⁴. While the few early finds of the fortress are dated to the beginning of the Hellenistic period, it was determined that it was abandoned after the Roman defeat of Mithradates VI in 65-64 BC and was never inhabited again³⁵. Archaeological data including coins, ceramics, terracotta figurines, metal finds and many other artefacts as well as glass finds support this chronology.

It should be noted that all the glass vessels unearthed in the fortress were examined in this article. There are no glass finds in the fortress that can be dated to the pre-Hellenistic period. Ribbed bowls, linear-cut bowls and Early Roman Imperial blown glasses, which has a wide distribution in Anatolia, were not among the finds of the Kurul Kalesi excavations. The dating based on analogies makes it possible to fix the the reign of Mithradates VI (120-63 BC) as the time when glass vessels were intensively used at the site.

The findspots where the glass finds are unearthed can be listed as the Inner Fortress, the Northern Terrace, Storage Rooms, the cultic area where the famous marble statue of Kybele was found representing the goddess sitting on her throne within a niche and its surroundings³⁶. Other spots where the glass finds were found is the Dionysus Sanctuary, the area under a pile of stones (an area covered with stacked stones after losing its cultic function, including votive items inside it) and Administrative Buildings Area. In addition to glass vessels, many beads of different colours and shapes are among the glass finds of the fortress. Among the beads made of various materials, approximately one hundred glass beads were discovered. Some of the glass vessels as well as the beads were votive objects offered Kybele and especially Dionysus³⁷. This situation reveals that the most of the glass objects found in Kurul Kalesi did not have any function in daily life but were votive objects.

It can be concluded that the glass vessels found in the fortress consisting mostly of luxury glasses of their time are the productions of the Eastern Mediterranean and Aegean Islands. The colorless glass bowl from Kurul Kalesi (fig. 3a) is a close parallel of cast transparent glass bowls found in Rhodes³⁸. The opaque blue glass vessel fragments and beads (fig. 6a-h) found in the fortress is a considerable glass group which is previously known from a group

34 Şenyurt – Akçay 2016, 221-22.

35 Şenyurt – Akçay 2016, 234; Şenyurt – Zoroğlu 2018, 183.

36 Şenyurt – Durugönül 2018.

37 Şenyurt et al. 2020, 505-516.

38 Triantafyllidis 2000b, 197-200, tab. II. nr. 16-22.

of finds from Delos which was suggested as a production center by Nenna³⁹. Reticella (fig. 5a-f) and mosaic bowls with ring bases (fig. 4a-d) from Kurul Kalesi must have an Eastern Mediterranean origin just like the reticella bowls found in the Antikythera shipwreck, with similar ring bases⁴⁰. The grooved bowls (fig. 7a-h), which had a large distribution during the Hellenistic period, constitute the largest group from Kurul Kalesi. Although Syro-Palestinian region is accepted as a production center of grooved bowls, it was also suggested that they could also be the products of Hellenistic glass workshops of Rhodes⁴¹.

Considering the data from Kurul Kalesi excavations, it can be concluded that the luxury glass produced in the Eastern Mediterranean during the reign of Mithradates VI have reached a remote corner of Anatolia like the Kurul Kalesi in the Eastern Black Sea region as commercial objects. However, considering the military activities of Mithradates VI in the Aegean and Mediterranean, also it seems reasonable to think that these sophisticated glass objects at Kurul Kalesi may have come to the region with military trophies.

39 Nenna 1993, 15, 21.

40 Grose 1984, 30-31; Avronidaki 2012.

41 Triantafyllidis 2003, 137.

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Fig. 1 Aerial photograph of Kurul Kalesi. (© Kurul Kalesi archive). 1. The rock altar and the open-air cult area; 2. The rock reservoir (so-called cistern); 3. The stepped tunnel; 4. Corridor; 5. Niche of Kybele and Kybele cult area; 6. An area covered with stacked stones after losing its cultic function; 7. Dionysus sanctuary.



Fig. 2 Core-formed bottle fragments from Kurul Kalesi. (Illustrated by the author).

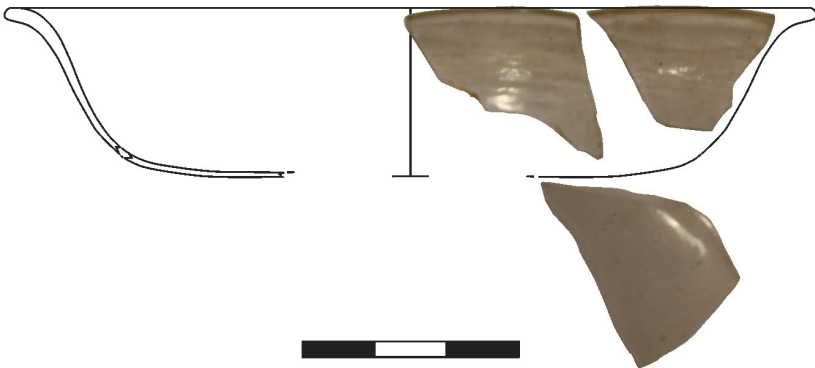


Fig. 3 Cast colorless bowl from Kurul Kalesi. (Illustrated by the author).

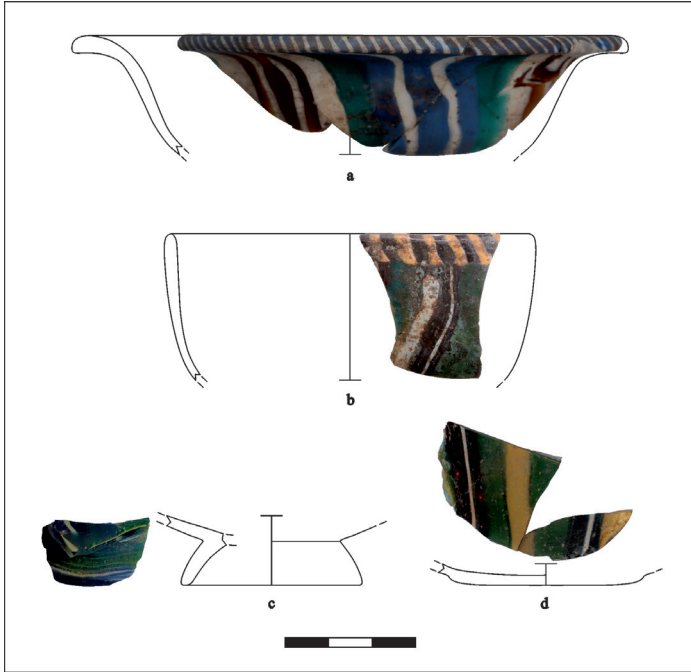


Fig. 4 Striped-mosaic bowl fragments from Kurul Kalesi. (Illustrated by the author).

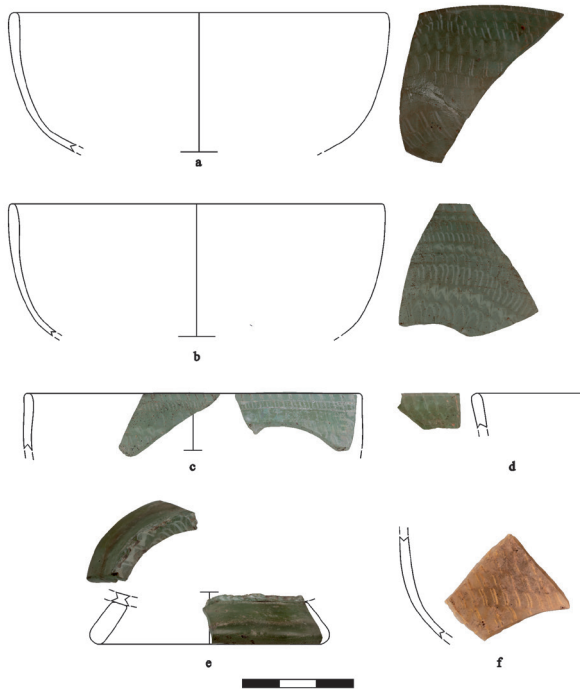


Fig. 5 Reticella bowls from Kurul Kalesi. (Illustrated by the author).

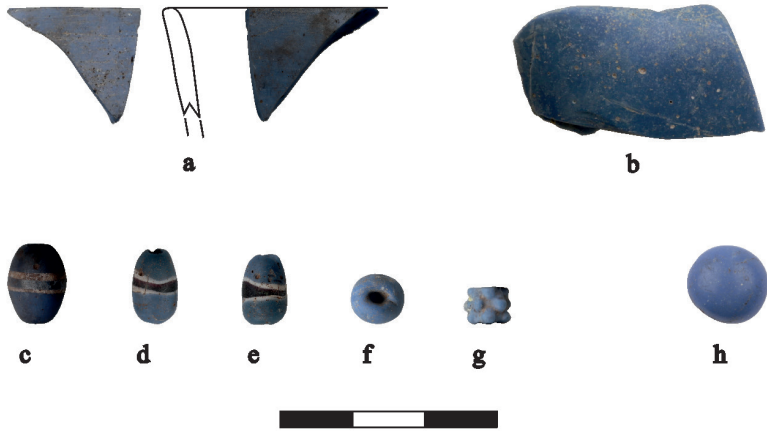


Fig. 6 Opaque blue bowl fragments and beads from Kurul Kalesi. (Illustrated by the author).

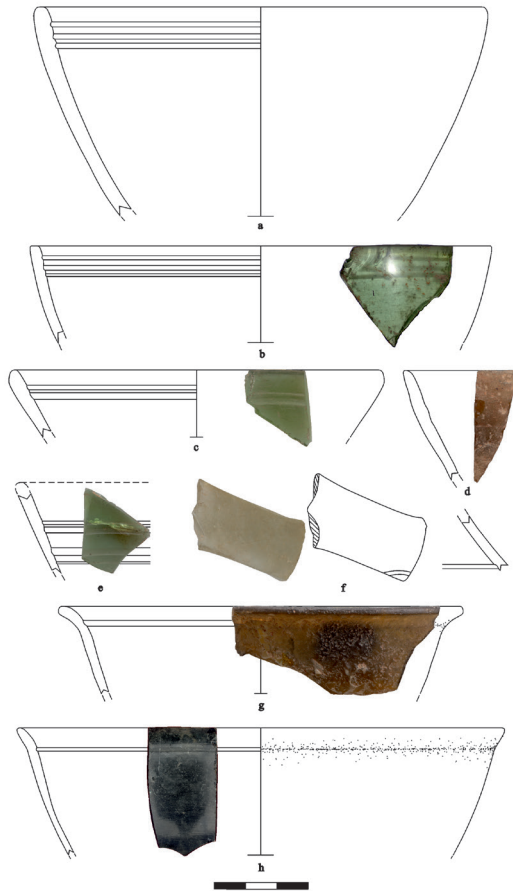


Fig. 7 Grooved bowl fragments from Kurul Kalesi. (Illustrated by the author).