

GLASS OBJECTS

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Only sixteen objects made of glass or glass paste have been found during all the years of excavation at building U6. Most of the finds are beads and there is only one item that falls under the 'glass vessels' – which are, in fact, extremely rare for the early Hellenistic period. This is a glass bowl found in *room 12* (the sanctuary) and it probably belonged among a number of other objects intended for some ritual purpose.

As regards the beads, no regularity in the pattern of their distribution over the excavation area has been identified. Most of them were found in the courtyard and only four specimens were discovered inside the rooms of the building (**N 3**, **N 7**, **N 9**, **N 13**). All these items had most probably been lost at some time or other by inmates of the building (most likely women). None of the beads that were found formed complete necklaces or any other set pieces but were in every case just isolated specimens of various different types: spotted or 'eye-beads', ribbed, cone-shaped, and pendant ones, *etc.* Two beads, however, are exceptional: they are spacer-beads with anthropomorphic faces, and the fact that they were found in *room 12*, the sanctuary, suggests their votive character.¹

Most of the beads are made from opaque glass, though the spotted beads and spacer-beads are of opaque glass-like paste.²

N 1. U6 courtyard, B-2. 1974.

Bead made from a piece of red coral. The shape is elongated and there is a small projection through which a hole is pierced for threading on a necklace or bracelet. Length 1.9 cm; diameter 0.4 cm.

N 2. U6 courtyard, V-4. 1973.

Fragmentary spotted bead. Barrel-shaped, with uneven surface; prominent knobs surround the edges of the threading holes. The bead consists of a dark blue glass-like porous paste. The 'eyes' are round and elongated and made of white and yellowish paste. One quarter of the bead is preserved. Supposed original diameter 1.8 cm (Alekseeva 1975, Type 19).

N 3. U6 room 13. Find list 8/53. 1971.

Spotted bead in the shape of an irregular oblate spheroid made of yellow opaque glass-like paste. The 'eyes' are white with a blue stripe in the middle. Diameter 1.7 cm; length of main axis 1.0 cm.

N 4. U6 courtyard, D-6. Find list 17/128-129. 1972.

Spotted bead of yellowish opaque glass-like paste. The core has a dense spiral structure. The surface is decorated with three applied spots of greenish paste. Diameter 1.2 cm; length of main axis 0.9 cm.

N 5. U6 courtyard, D-5. 1974.

Cone-shaped bead of dark blue, almost black, opaque glass. The base is decorated with transverse grooves. Diameter of the base 0.6 cm; length of main axis 0.5 cm.

N 6. U6 courtyard, D-6. Find list 17/128-129. 1972.

Cone-shaped bead of dark blue, almost black, opaque glass. Diameter of the base 0.6 cm; length of main axis 0.5 cm.

N 7. U6 room 20. 1972.

Truncated pyramid-shaped bead of dark blue opaque glass. Dimensions: base 0.7 × 0.7 cm; upper surface 0.2 × 0.2 cm; length of main axis 1.8 cm.

N 8. U6 courtyard, V-5. 1973.

Bead with rounded ribs made of opaque dark-blue glass. The surface is divided into sections by the solid oval ribs. Diameter 1.5 cm; length of main axis 0.8 cm. (Alekseeva 1975, Type 16).

N 9. U6 room 12. Find list 6/63. 1973.

Amphora-shaped pendant made of light green transparent glass. Height 1.2 cm; diameter 0.7 cm (Alekseeva 1975, pl. 4, 15).

N 10. U6 courtyard, D-5. 1974.

Amphora-shaped pendant made of light green transparent glass. The upper part is broken off. Height 0.8 cm; diameter 0.9 cm (Alekseeva 1975, pl. 4, 15).

N 11. U6 courtyard, V-2. 1971.

Amphora-shaped pendant made of white transparent glass. Height 1.7 cm; diameter 1.2 cm (Alekseeva 1975, pl. 4, 15).

N 12. U6 courtyard, D-5. 1974.

Fragment of elongated spacer-bead of opaque dark blue

glass. Decorated with festoons of opaque yellowish white paste and 'eyes' of the same paste with blue centers. Length of the fragment preserved 1.7 cm; diameter 0.9 cm.

N 13. U6 room 33. Find list 4/13. 1973.

Figured pendant-bead of dark blue opaque glass representing a bird. There is a suspension loop on the back of the figurine. The grooves of the tail plumage are marked on both the upper and under sides by stripes of dark green paste in-filling. Length 2.7 cm; height 1.5 cm. (Alekseeva 1975, pl. 4, 75).

N 14. U6 room 12. Find list 6/61. 1971. Pls. 149 and 176.

Cylinder-shaped figured spacer-bead 3.4 cm high and 1.9-2.0 cm in diameter; diameter of the central threading hole 0.9-1.0 cm. The bead was manufactured by the core process from dark blue opaque glass; the traces of the core are preserved inside the hole. On the surface there are applied relief representations of human faces. Published: Gilević 1988, fig. 1. (For further details, *cf.* **G 18**).

N 15. U6 room 12. Find list 6/62. 1971. Pls. 149 and 176.

Figured spacer-bead similar to **N 14**. Height 3.1 cm; diameter 1.8 cm; diameter of the hole 0.9 cm. (For further details, *cf.* **G 19**).

N 16. U6 room 12. Find list 6/60. 1971. Pls. 149 and 176.

Fragmentary bowl of light transparent glass with a cylinder-shaped lip and out-turned rim passing smoothly into the walls, which narrow towards the bottom. From the fragments found it was possible to glue together the complete upper part with the transition to base. The base itself is missing, but the shape of the transition from wall to base suggests that the bottom was flat. The wall is smooth and even and devoid of any relief decoration. The vessel was mould-made from monochrome transparent glass and is highly iridescent. Height preserved 4.9 cm; diameter of rim 10.9 cm; thickness of walls 0.15-0.25 cm. See also **G 16a**.

This vessel is a unique specimen of early Hellenistic glassware. As far as I am aware it is the first find of such a kind in the northern Black Sea area. Moreover, both in shape and decorative treatment this bowl differs considerably from other contemporaneous glass vessels. It is known that early monochrome glass vessels were produced in the eastern Mediterranean,³ and as regards surviving specimens they are represented either by low, broad phialai with relief decoration of rosettes,⁴ or by thick-walled hemispherical bowls without any such decoration⁵ – both types of vessel being produced by the mould-pressing process.⁶ In its shape the bowl from *room 12* resembles rather those specimens of glass vessels dated to the first centuries A.D.⁷ which are also of hemispherical shape with a smoothly out-turned lip, though for their production the process of glass-blowing was already being employed. Our specimen, to all appearances, is of an origin other than eastern, and thus it enables us to push back by some centuries the first appearance in more westerly parts of the Mediterranean of glass vessels in the form of tall hemispherical bowls with smoothly out-turned lips.

NOTES

1. For details, *cf.* Part II **G**.
2. On the whole subject of bead-making techniques, see Alekseeva 1975, with many references.
3. Kunina 1997, 31 ff.
4. Grose 1989, 86-87; Weinberg 1970; 1973, 35-51; Oliver 1970, 9-12.
5. Kunina 1997, nos. 50-52.
6. On the manufacturing technique, *cf.* Grose 1989; Soldern 1982; Kunina 1997.
7. Kunina 1997, no. 290.