'Atiqot 58, 2008

The Coins from Ṭamra

Danny Syon

Sixteen coins, all in too poor a state of preservation to be illustrated, were found in the Ṭamra (Ṭamra ez-Zu'bi) excavation of 2001 (see Porat, this volume). The coins range in date from the second half of the fourth century BCE to the sixth century CE (Table 1). Those that could be identified are presented in chronological order in the catalogue below. A few of them deserve special attention:

A silver drachm from L120 bears the name of Alexander the Great, but is too damaged to allow a more precise identification.

A very common 'Akko-Ptolemais coin, from L115, was dated to the reign of Antiochus IV (169–164 BCE), or perhaps somewhat later, on the basis of its beveled edge, a trait that disappeared toward the middle of the second century BCE.

Five tiny *nummi* from L113 were assigned to the fifth century CE because of their extremely small size (7–9 mm) and the fact that two similar-sized coins from this locus were identified as belonging to that period.

Table 1. Coins found at Ṭamra ez-Zu'bi, by Locus

Locus	Date	Cat. No.
105	1st c. CE(?)	3
111	Unidentifiable	-
113	Unidentifiable (3 coins)	-
	5th c. CE	6 plus 4 other coins
	474–491 CE	5
	534–539 CE	7
	6 th c. CE	8
115	169–164 BCE, perhaps later	2
120	c. 344–300 BCE	1
124	242–244 CE	4

Catalogue

1. Reg. No. 1058, L120, IAA 102609.
Alexander III, c. 344–300 BCE.
Obv.: Head of Alexander with lion skin.
Rev.: ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Zeus seated l., holding eagle and leaning on scepter.
Æ *drachm*, ↑, 3.94 g, 17 mm.

2. Reg. No. 1086, L115, IAA 102612.
Civic issue, 'Akko-Ptolemais, c. 169–164 BCE.
Obv.: Jugate busts of the Dioscuri.
Rev.: ΑΝΤΙΟΧΕΩΝ] ΤΩΝ [ΕΝ / Π]ΤΟΛΕΜ[ΑΙΔΙ] Cornucopia.
Æ *dilepton*, ↑, 2.31 g, 15 mm, beveled edge.
Cf. Seyrig 1962:27, No. 3.

3. Reg. No. 1008, L105, IAA 102606.
Roman provincial, first century CE(?).
Obv.: Head r.
Rev.: Figure l.
Æ, ↓, 4.80 g, 20 mm, irregular flan.

4. Reg. No. 1065, L124, IAA 102608.
Gordian III, Rome, 242–244 CE.
Obv.: [IMP GORDIANVS PIVS F]EL AVG Bust r.
Rev.: MAR[S PROPVGNA]T Traces of Mars advancing r. In field: SC
Æ *sestertius*, ↑, 8.55 g, 28 mm, half a coin.
See *RIC* 4/3: No. 332a.

5. Reg. No. 1043, L113, IAA 102624.
Zeno (474–491 CE), Antioch.
Obv.: Obliterated.
Rev.: ℳ
Æ *nummus*, 0.50 g, 8 mm.
Cf. *RIC* 10: No. 972.

6. Reg. No. 1044, L113, IAA 102607.
Late Roman, fifth century CE.
Obv.: Oblit.
Rev.: Cross.
Æ, 0.56 g, 8 mm.

7. Reg. No. 1040, L113, IAA 102610.
Justinian I, Carthage, 534–539 CE.
Obv.: Oblit.
Rev.: **A**.
Æ *nummus*, 0.50 g, 9 mm.
Cf. Bijovsky 1998:102, 4th row.

8. Reg. No. 1039, L113, IAA 102611.
Byzantine, sixth century CE.
Obv.: Oblit.
Rev.: **I** (?).
Æ *decanummium*, 1.11 g, 11 mm.

REFERENCES

Bijovsky G. 1998. The Gush Ḥalav Hoard Reconsidered. *'Atiqot* 35:77–106.

Porat L. This volume. A Site from the Iron Age and Early Islamic Period near Ṭamra in the Lower Galilee.

RIC 4/3: H. Mattingly, E.A. Sydenham and C.H.V. Sutherland. *The Roman Imperial Coinage* IV, III: *Gordianus III–Uranius Antoninus.* London 1949.

RIC 10: J.P.C. Kent. *The Roman Imperial Coinage* X: *The Divided Empire and the Fall of the Western Parts. AD 395□491.* London 1994.

Seyrig H. 1962. Le Monnayage de Ptolémaïs en Phénicie. *Revue Numismatique (6e serie)* 4:25–50, Pl. I.