

COINS FROM I'BILLIN

ROBERT KOOL

Six coins were retrieved from the excavations in the village of I'billin (see Abu Raya, this volume); of these, five were identified.¹ The coins were all found in Area A, mostly in an accumulated fill near the surface.

Three small module, Late Roman *nummi* date to the fourth century CE (Nos. 1–3).² One of them (No. 3) was found in a stratified context, in the fill (L111) of a floor attributed to Stratum VII, together with Byzantine pottery. The floor was sealed by a destruction layer with ceramic remains dating to the fourth–sixth centuries CE.

A small Byzantine-period bronze coin (No. 4) is from the reign of Justinian I (527–565 CE). This denomination (12 *nummi*), minted in Alexandria, was the main coin type of Egypt during Justinian's reign (*MIBE*:62). It also circulated in substantial numbers in Byzantine Palestine, as witnessed by its appearance in numerous excavations.

The latest coin (No. 5) is a Crusader billon denier of Henry I of Lusignan, king of Cyprus (1218–1253 CE). Though partly effaced, the coin shows on its reverse the 'Genoese' gate type ('Type 7'), which was introduced after the monetary reform that took place upon Henry's attaining majority as king with the help of the Genoese (Metcalf 1998:83). These coins date to the last twenty years of his rule (c. 1233–1253 CE).

CATALOGUE

1. Reg. No. 1063, L110, IAA 106153.

351–361 CE.

Obv.: Illegible.

Rev.: [- -] soldier spearing horseman.

Æ, 1.87g, 17 mm.

LRBC II:87, No. 2039.

2. Reg. No. 1061, L101, IAA 106151.

Fourth century CE.

Obv.: Bust r.

Rev.: Illegible.

Æ, 3.84g, 21 mm.

3. Reg. No. 1058, L111, IAA 106152.

Fourth century CE.

Obv.: Bust r.

Rev.: Illegible.

Æ, 2.85g, 20 mm.

4. Reg. No. 1069, L125, IAA 139019.

Justinian I (527–565 CE), Alexandria.

Obv.: Bust r. with diadem.

Rev.: I + B ; in exergue: ΑΛΕΞ

Æ 12 *nummus*, 2.44 g, 16 mm.

MIBE: Nos. 152, 165.



5. Reg. No. 1006, L100, IAA 139018.

Henry I of Lusignan (1233–1253), Cyprus.

Obv.: HENRI[IC]VS. Effaced.

Rev.: +REX [CYPR] Genoese gate with battlement.

Billon denier, 0.52 g, 17 mm.

Metcalf 1998:234–242.



NOTES

¹ The coins were cleaned in the laboratories of the IAA headed by Lena Kupferschmidt and were photographed by Clara Amit of the IAA photography studio.

² My thanks to Danny Syon of the IAA for identifying these coins.

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