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Coins from 'En Ya'al (Naḥal Refa'im), Jerusalem

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Eleven coins, all bronze, were found toward the end of the excavation on the northern bank of Naḥal Refa'im (see Weksler-Bdolah, this volume); none were found *in situ*.[1] Two were unidentifiable. The four coins earliest in date are all Hasmonean (first century BCE; Nos. 1–4), and may be related to Stratum III. The rest of the coins (Nos. 5–9) date from the fourth century CE, and thus probably relate to the pottery kiln in Stratum I (fourth–early fifth centuries CE). Judging by the date of the ceramic assemblage, and as no coins were found under the mosaic floor, it can be concluded that the fourth century CE coins, representing roughly 80 years of minting, are later in date to the laying of the mosaic floor. Interestingly, no coins of the third century CE, when the Roman villa in Stratum II was undoubtedly in use, or of the first third of the fourth century CE, were found.

Catalogue

1. Reg. No. 12, IAA 96285.
Alexander Jannaeus, Jerusalem, 80/79–76 BCE.
Obv.: [- - -] Anchor.
Rev.: [- - -] Eight-pointed star in diadem.
Æ, 2.04 g, 16 mm.
TJC:209–210, Group K.

2. Reg. No. 10044, L1001, IAA 96277.
Alexander Jannaeus, Jerusalem, 80/79–76 BCE.
Obv.: Anchor in circle.
Rev.: Six-pointed star in border of dots.
Æ, 0.91 g, 12 × 14 mm.
*TJC:*210, Subtype L8.

3. Reg. No. 2, IAA 96278.
Alexander Jannaeus, Jerusalem, 80/79–76 BCE.
Obv.: Anchor in circle.
Rev.: [remains of border of dots].
Æ, 0.8 g, 11 mm.
Cf. *TJC:*210, Subtypes L9–12.

4. Reg. No. 5, IAA 96279.
Hasmonean, Jerusalem.
Obv.: Inscription within wreath:
חבר / ן הגדל / ה[כ]ן ה / [- - -]
Rev.: Double cornucopia; between horns: pomegranate.
Æ, ↖, 1.32 g, 14 mm.

5. Reg. No. 7, Surface, IAA 96280.
335–341 CE
Obv.: [- - -] Bust r.
Rev.: [GLOR–IA EXERC–I] ṬV[S] Two soldiers stg. facing, holding shields and spears; between them, one standard.
Æ, ↓, 1.59 g, 17 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* I:24, No. 1024.

6. Reg. No. 9, IAA 96282.
Valentinian II, 383 CE.
Obv.: DN VAL[ENTINIANVS PF AVG] Pearl-diademed, draped bust r.
Rev.: Inscription within wreath: Ṿ[O]T/[X]/[MV] LT/X̣X̣
Æ, ↑, 1.07 g, 12 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* II:89, No. 2158.

7. Reg. No. 8, Surface, IAA 96281.
Honorius(?), 393–395 CE(?).

Obv.: DN ḤON[- - -] Pearl-diademed, draped bust r.
Rev.: [- - -] Victory(?) to l., trophy on shoulder, dragging captive(?).
Æ, ↑ ?, 0.54 g, 9 × 12 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* II:89, No. 2194.

8. Reg. No. 10, IAA 96283.
395–408 CE.
Rev.: [CO]NCOR[DIA AVG][---] Cross.
Æ, 0.65 g, 11 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* II:90, No. 2207.

9. Reg. No. 11, Surface, IAA 96284.
Fourth century CE.
Obv.: [- - -] Bust r.
Rev.: [- - -] Figure stg.
Æ, ↑, 1.65 g, 13 mm.

NOTE

[1] The coins were collected toward the end of the excavation with the aid of a metal detector. They were cleaned by Ella Altmark and photographed by Clara Amit.

REFERENCES

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LRBC II: R.A.G. Carson and J.P.C. Kent. Bronze Roman Imperial Coinage of the Later Empire, A.D. 346–498. In *Late Roman Bronze Coinage A.D. 324–498*. London 1965. Pp. 41–114.

TJC: Y. Meshorer. *A Treasury of Jewish Coins from the Persian Period to Bar Kochba* (R. Amoils transl.). Jerusalem–Nyack 2001.

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