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Coins from the Mamluk and Ottoman Periods at Ramla

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The excavations at the Central Bus Station in Ramla (see Torge, this volume) brought to light seventy-four coins, of which fifty-five were identified.[1] The coins were discovered in all four excavated areas (A–D). Stratigraphical analysis of the different phases and the lack of earlier artifacts indicate that the site belongs exclusively to the Mamluk and Ottoman periods, a conclusion borne out by the numismatic evidence. Except for five residual finds dating to the Byzantine period (337–565 CE; Cat. Nos. 1–5) and a single thirteenth-century copper from the Crusader principality of Antioch (Cat. No. 6)—found together with a contemporary pan (see Torge, this volume: Fig. 14)—the coin finds date securely from the mid-fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries CE. These are copper *fulus* regularly found in sites of the period. A small silver *half dirham* of Al-Ashraf Abû al-Nasr Sayf ad-Dîn Barsbây (AH 825–841/1422–1438 CE), which was minted in Damascus in AH 825/1422 CE, was also among the finds.

Dating by coin finds provided a significantly lower range of dates for plaster floors and building phases uncovered at the site than did dating by ceramic ware and Carbon-14.

Fig. 1.

COIN CATALOGUE[i]

Cat. No.	Reg. No.	Loc. No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Bibliography	IAA No.
Constans I (337–350 CE)										
1	3142	324	2.01	18	FLIVL CONS[TANS- - -] Bust r.	GLOR–IA EXERC–ITVS Two soldiers stg., in center: two standards	330–335		Cf. LRBC 1:30, No. 1361	75498
Theodosius I (379–395 CE)										
2	3238	359	1.30	12	[DN THEODO]–SIVS PP AVG Bust r., diademed	SALVS REI–PVBLICAE Victory l., trophy on shoulder, dragging captive; in field l: ☨	383–395		Cf. LRBC 2:102, No. 2769	75501
4th–5th Centuries CE										
3	1120	112	0.74	12	Bust to r.	Obliterated				75463
4	1152	115	0.57	13	Same	Same				75469
Justinian I (527–565 CE) — *Follis*										
5	1311	149	3.99	19	[DN IVSTINIASIVS] PP AVG Bust r.	K To l. long cross dividing N and I; to r., officina letter: Γ		Nicomedia	Cf. DOC 1:110, No.112	75481
Principality of Antioch Bohemund IV (1215–1250 CE) — *Pougeoise*										
6*	1072	106	0.42	15	Lis with four dots in each quarter	+ANTIOCHIA Cross fourchée, with dot in each quarter		Antioch	Metcalf 1995: No. 475.	75460
Mamlûks Al-Nasir Nasir ad-Din Muḥammad, 3rd Reign (AH 709–741/1310–1341 CE) — *Fals*										
7*	1242	127	2.42	14	Obliterated	Six-petaled rosette within hexagram			Balog 1964:161, No. 257	75474
8	1124	114	1.70	16	Field divided by horizontal line of dots, between two horizontal lines: الملك/ضرب	Hexagram with flowerets		Tarablus	Balog 1964:161, No. 259	75467
9	1094	109	1.22	18	Ornament below. In center: الملك النصر	Six-petaled rosette		Dimashq	Balog 1964:162, 261	75462
10	1145	115	2.05	18	Ornament above and below. In center: الملك النصر	Six-petaled rosette around: بدمشق	AH 730 (1329)	Dimashq	Same	75470

[i] All the coins are bronze, unless otherwise mentioned. The coins are listed chronologically, according to types. Coins bearing an asterisk are illustrated in Fig. 1.

COIN CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Reg. No.	Loc. No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Bibliography	IAA No.
Al-Mansur Sayf al-Din Abu Bakr (AH 741–742/1341 CE) — *Fals*										
11	3112	322	2.65	17	Within hexagram with pellets: اثنتين/ سنة/و اربعن	Within hexagram with pellets: ضر/ب / مشق/بد		Dimashq	Balog 1964:165, No. 267	75497
Al-Nâsir Nâsir ad-Dîn Ḥasan, 1st reign (AH 748–752/1347–1351 CE) — *Fals*										
12	1063	104	2.96	19	Field divided by two horizontal lines in three segments: الملك [محمد] بن	Two interwoven tetralobes with painted arches		Dimashq	Balog 1964:187, No. 327	75452
Al-Ashraf Nâsir ad-Dîn Sha'bân II (AH 764–778/1363–1377 CE) — *Fals*										
13	1307	144	0.83	16	In central segment: الملك	Upper segment: ضرب		Dimashq	Balog 1964:220, No. 454	75478
14*	1071	106	2.17	21	In central segment: الملك الاشرف	Upper segment: ضرب Middle segment: و سبعين و		Same	Same	75457
15	1062	104	3.12	15	Within cartouche: حسن/بن	Within octolobe with floweret on edges: [ضر]ب/[مشق]ق/بد		Same	Balog 1964:221, No. 458	75451
16*	1085	106	3.10	20	Within cartouche: حسن بن Around: السلطان الملك الاشرف شبعين	Within octolobe with floweret on edges: ضرب/مشق/بد		Same	Same	75461
17	1371	153	2.27	20	Same	Same		Same	Same	75483
18	3086	309	2.52	16	Within cartouche: حسن بن	Same		Same	Same	75494
19	1225	125	2.66	15	Field divided by double horizontal lines: الملك الاشرف ضرب بطرابلس	Circular wavy cable to l., between two circular lines. In center, six-petaled rosette with central pellet		Tarablus	Balog 1964:227, No. 476b	75472
Al-Zahir Sayf ad-Din Barquq, 1st Reign (AH 784–791/1382–1389 CE) — *Fals*										
20	1073	106	1.87	19	Field divided by double horizontal lines: [ضرب بدمشق] الظاهر/السلطان الملك	Hexagram in circular line. In segments: .../عام...		Dimashq	Balog 1964:258, No. 561; overstrike on earlier type	75459
21	3110	319	1.68	15	برقوق/الملك الظاهر/ابو سعيد	Within cartouche: جلب		Halab	Balog 1964:259, No. 564	75495
2nd reign (AH 792–801/1390–1399 CE) — *Fals*										
22	1281	140	3.54	22	السلطان/الملك/الظاهر سيف الدنيا و الدين [ابو سعد برقوق]	ضرب بالقاهرة [...]		Al-Qahirah	Balog 1964:263, 578	75476

COIN CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Reg. No.	Loc. No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Bibliography	IAA No.
23	1284	180	3.20	22	[…] السلطان […]	ضرب سكندرية		Iskandariyah	Balog 1964:265, No. 587	75473
24	1246	140	1.86	19	Within circle: برقوق	Within circle, fleur-de-lis		Ḥalab	Balog 1964:267, No. 593	75475
25	1243	123	2.60	18	برقوق […]	Obliterated			Balog 1964:265, No. 587	85342
Al-Ashraf Abû al-Nasr Sayf ad-Dîn Barsbây (AH 825–841/1422–1438 CE) — Silver *Half Dirham*										
26*	3094	309	0.79	13	Within inner circle: ربع و ثمن	بدمشق لآلة الا اللة/محمد رسول اللة / [ضرب]	AH 825 (1422)	Dimashq	Balog 1964:314, No. 717	75496
Al-Zahir Abû Sa'id Jamaq (AH 842–857/1438–1458 CE) — *Fals*										
27	1399	172	0.69	13	Within cartouche: جقمق	Obliterated		[Ḥalab]	Unpublished	75486
Mamlûks 14th Century — *Fals*										
28	1338	144	1.24	17	Obliterated	Upper segment: chandelier		Hamah	Balog 1964:384, No. 905	75477
29	3068	306	1.76	13	[…]الدبيا	Obliterated				75491
30	4034	400	3.51	20	[…]الملك	Obliterated				75503
31	1123	114	3.78	20	[…]سكند رية …	…				75466
32	1160	114	1.62	15	Obliterated	…وق …				75468
33	4031	402	2.01	17	[…]	Obliterated				75505
34	1059	100	1.97	16	Obliterated	[…]المنصور […]				75450
35	1065	104	1.96	18	Hexagram	Obliterated				75454
36	1066	104	1.12	21	Obliterated	Obliterated				75455
37	1070		1.06	14	Same	Same				75456
38	1119	112	1.80	20	Same	Same				75464
39	1299	145	1.36	19	Same	Same				75479
40	1310	149	2.60	19	Same	Same				75480

COIN CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Reg. No.	Loc. No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Bibliography	IAA No.
41	1379	153	1.12	15	Same	Same				75484
42	1397	175	1.12	15	Same	Same				75485
43	3067	301	1.85	17	Same	Same				75488
44	3038	302	0.70	13	Same	Same				75489
45	4013	401	0.61	13	Same	Same				75504
14–15th Centuries — *Fals*										
46	1125	112	3.70	15	[…]بالقاه[…]	Obliterated		Al-Qahirah		75465
47	1365	153	3.08	17	Obliterated	Obliterated				75482
48	3225	360	2.21	15	Same	Same				75502
15th Century — *Fals*										
49	1064	104	3.89	18	Obliterated	Obliterated				75453
50	1069	106	2.86	15	Same	Same				75458
51	3074	306	2.70	15	Same	Same				75492
52	3079	306	3.73	21	Same	Same				75493
Mamlûks **Uncertain —** *Fals*										
53	1181	116	1.05	15	Obliterated	Obliterated				75471
Ottomans **16–17th Centuries —** *Menghir*										
54	3049	302	2.39	17	ضرب بدمشق…	Arabesque ornament		Dimashq		75490
55*	3023	301	9.37	18	Obliterated	Arabesque ornament		Misr al Mahrusah	Valentine 1911:30, No. 8	75487

NOTE

[1] The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratory under the direction of Lena Kuperschmidt, and photographed by Clara Amit.

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