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The Coins from the Eastern Circus at Caesarea Maritima

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During the excavations at the Eastern Circus, 44 coins were discovered, 31 of which were identifiable (Fig. 1; see Catalogue, below).[1] The dates of the coins range from the first century CE until the ninth century CE (Abbasid period). The coin types are rather conventional and do not deserve special discussion. It should be emphasized, however, that all the Roman Provincial coins discovered at the site were struck in Caesarea (Coin Nos. 3, 10, 12, 13).

Among the Byzantine coins worthy of mention are a *decanummium* of Justinian I, most probably dated to 547/548 CE (Coin No. 24) and three examples of *dodecanummia* minted in Alexandria, frequently found in Caesarea (Coin Nos. 25–27, the latter is a cast imitation). Among the Abbasid coins is a rare *fals* minted by Governor Dinar Ibn ʿAbd Allah in Lod, dated to 825 CE (Coin No. 27).

For a discussion concerning the coins as a means of dating the various phases at the site, see Porath, this volume.

Fig. 1.

[1] The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratories under the direction of Lena Kupperschmidt, and were photographed by Clara Amit. The Islamic coins were identified by Ariel Berman. The article was edited by Lori Lender.

CATALOGUE[i]

Cat. No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
Roman Procurators Claudius (41–54 CE)											
1*	60024	600,030	2.65	17	↑	NEP[ω KΛAY KAIC] AP Two crossed shields and two crossed spears	BPIT Palm tree, flanked by date: [LIΔ / KAI]	Year 14 = 54	Jerusalem	*AJC* 2:284, No. 29	88551
2	61072	601,207	2.06	15	↑	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	88550
Roman Provincial Nero (54–68 CE)											
3	61072	601,201	9.71	21	↑	[NEPΩN KAIΣAP ΣEBAΣTOΣ] Head laureate, r.	KAIΣAPIA HΠPOΣ ΣEBAΣTΩ ΛIMENI Tyche stg. l., holding bust of emperor and spear. Date: LIΔ	Year 14 = 54	Caesarea	Kadman 1957:98, No. 1	88549
Roman Procurators Nero (54–68 CE)											
4	Surface	601,060	2.32	16	↑	NEPω NOC Inscription within wreath	[LE KAICAPOC] Palm branch	Year 5 = 59	Jerusalem	*AJC* 2:285, No. 35	88531
5	61057	601,176	1.80	15	↓	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	88544
6	61050	601,175	1.70	15	↓	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	88542
7	61057	601,175	1.62	14	↖	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	88543
8	61215	601,179	1.59	15		Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	88545
9	61070	601,118	0.80	13		Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	88533
Autonomous Issue—*Minima*											
10*	61050	601,173	1.12	10	→	Head of horse r.?	Uncertain animal (lion, boar?) stg. r.	1st–2nd	Caesarea	Unpublished	88540

[i] All the coins are bronze. The coins are arranged chronologically, according to coin types. Coins bearing an asterisk are illustrated in Fig. 1.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
11	61056	601,188	0.64	12		Head r.	Obliterated			Cast illegible	88548
Roman Provincial Lucius Verus (161–169 CE)											
12*	61050	601,174	10.38	22	↑	[IMP CAES L AVR VERVS AVG ARM] Bust laureate, r.	COL [PR FL AVG CAESAREA] Head of Serapis r.		Caesarea	Kadman 1957:108, No. 53	88541
Severus Alexander (222–235 CE)											
13	Surface	601,017	8.30	19	↘	[IMP CAE SEV ALEXANDER] Head laureate, r.	CIF A FC CAES METROPOLIS] Eagle stg. facing, with open wings, holding wreath: SPQR		Caesarea	Kadman 1957:116, Nos. 97–100	88527
Late Roman Uncertain Ruler											
14	61058	601,069	1.39	15	↘	[---] Head pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped r.	Inscription within wreath: VOT/XX/MVLT/XXX In exergue: SMAN[	341–346	Antioch	Cf. *LRBC* 1:31, No. 1398	88532
15	61075	601,187	1.20	15		[---] Bust r.	[FEL TEMP REPARATIO] Virtus spearing fallen horseman. Mintmark illegible	351–361		Cf. *LRBC* 2:100, Nos. 2632–2633	88546
16	60024	600,030	1.97	17	↓	[---] Bust pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	[SECVRITAS REI PVBLICAE] Victory advancing l., holding palm branch and wreath. Mintmark illegible	364–375		Cf. *LRBC* 2:100, Nos. 2656–2657	88552
17	61060	601,161	1.05	11		Traces of inscription Head r.	Obliterated	4th c.			88537

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
18	Surface	601,011	0.89	13		Bust r.	Same	Same			88523
383–395 CE											
19	61050	601,169	1.21	12	↓	[---] Bust r.	[SALVS REI PVBLICAE] Victory advancing l., dragging captive and holding trophy. Mintmark illegible			Cf. *LRBC* 2:102, Nos. 2768–2771	88539
20	Surface	601,015	0.95	13	↓	Same	Same			Same	88525
21	Surface	601,014	0.87	13	↘	Same	Same			Same	88524
425–435 CE											
22	61058	601,132	1.06	11		Obliterated	Cross within wreath. Mintmark illegible			Cf. *LRBC* 2:90, No. 2234	88535
450–498 CE											
23	61058	601,132	0.51	8		Bust r.	Monogram within wreath?				88536
Byzantine Justinian I(?) (527–565 CE)—10 *Nummia*											
24	Surface	601,022	1.70	12	↓	Bust diademed, cuirassed and draped r.	I l: ANNO; r. Date: XXI?	547/548?	Constantinople	Cf. *DOC* 1:99, No. 82.1	88530
Uncertain Ruler—12 *Nummia*											
25	Surface	601,018	3.54	15	↑	Bust diademed, cuirassed and draped r.	I+B in exergue: AΛEΞ	6th c.	Alexandria	Cf. *DOC* 1:157, No. 274	88528
26	61060	601,161	1.12	14	↓	Same	Same	6th–7th c.	Same	Cast; Cf. *DOC* 2/1:194, No. 106.34	88538
27*	61075	601,187	0.48	13	↑	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	88547

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
Arab-Byzantine 1—*Follis*											
28*	Surface	601,016	2.68	16 × 19		Imperial figure stg. facing, holding globe and long cross	**m** above, star	c. 647–670	Uncertain	Cf. *SICA* 1: Group E Quartered *follis*	88526
Abbasid Governor Dinar Ibn ʿAbd Allah, under Al-Mamun—*Fals*											
29	Surface	601,009	2.01	21		[---] لاشريل له	Obliterated	210 AH = 825	Lodd	Cf. *SNAT* 1993:24, Nos. 219–221	88522
Uncertain Ruler—*Fals*											
30	Surface	601,019	0.65	15 × 18		لاا له اله محمد لاشريل له	محمد/ رسول / الله	9th c.			88529
31	61050	601,126	0.63	16		[---] لا ا له الا	Same	Same			88534

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