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The Coins from Ben Shemen

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Sixteen coins were discovered during the excavation at Ben Shemen (see Lupu, this volume); ten of them were identifiable and are presented in the catalogue below.[1] The earliest coins are two Hasmonean *pruṭot* (Nos. 1, 2). An autonomous issue minted in the city of Philadelphia (Rabbat Amon) is dated to 80/81 CE, and is the most peculiar coin found in the excavation (No. 3). The other seven coins are Late Roman *minimi* of the fourth and fifth centuries CE (Nos. 4–10).

Catalogue

1. Reg. No. 1186, L116, IAA 120420.
Alexander Janneus (104–80/79 BCE), Jerusalem.
Obv.: [ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ] Star within diadem.
Rev.: [המלך יהונתן] Anchor.
Æ *pruṭah*, 1.05 g, 13 mm.
TJC:209, No. K10.

2. Reg. No. 1068, L115, IAA 120421.
Hasmonean, Jerusalem.
Obliterated.
Æ *pruṭah*, 1.93 g, 15 mm. Identification according to fabric and size.

3. Reg. No. 1116, surface, IAA 120426.
Roman Provincial (80/81 CE), Autonomous, Philadelphia.
Obv.: [ΦΙΛΑΔ ΕΛΦΕωΝ] Victory stg. r., holding wreath.
Rev.: Palm tree, flanked by date: L [---] (= year 143).

[1] The coins were cleaned at the IAA metals laboratory under the direction of Lena Kuperschmidt and were photographed by Clara Amit. Two of the unidentifiable coins are probably of Alexander Janneus (L123, Reg. No. 1090; L142, Reg. No. 1202).

Æ, ↑, 2.32 g, 14 mm.
Spijkerman 1978:246, No. 7.

4. Reg. No. 1049, L124, IAA 120422.
Constantius II, 351–361 CE.
Obv.: [DN CONSTANTIVS PF AVG] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped.
Rev.: [FEL TEMP RE]PARATIO Virtus spearing fallen horseman. Mintmark illegible.
Æ, ↖, 2.39 g, 15 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* 2:100, No. 2632.

5. Reg. No. 1066, L108, IAA 120423.
Theodosius I(?), 378–383 CE.
Obv.: [DN THEODOS]IVS PF AVG Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped.
Rev.: In wreath: VOT/X/MVLT/XX Mintmark illegible.
Æ, ↓, 1.20 g, 10 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* 2:101, No. 2734.

6. Reg. No. 1027, L108, IAA 120424.
383–395 CE.
Obv.: DN [---] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped.
Rev.: [SALVS REI–PVBLICAE] Victory advancing l., holding trophy and dragging captive. Mintmark illegible.
Æ, ↑, 0.78 g, 10 mm. Fragment.
Cf. *LRBC* 2:102, Nos. 2768–2771.

7. Reg. No. 1030, L108, IAA 120427.
Fourth century CE.
Obv.: [---] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped.
Rev.: Obliterated.
Æ, 1.49 g, 12 mm.

8. Reg. No. 1069, L119, IAA 120428.
Same as No. 7.
Æ, 1.07g, 10 mm.

9. Reg. No. 1067, L124, IAA 120429.
Same as No. 7.
Æ, 1.87 g, 13 mm.

10. Reg. No. 1184, L116, IAA 120425.
Honorius(?), Rome(?), 410–423 CE.
Obv.: [---] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped.
Rev.: [VICTORIA AVGG] Victory advancing l., holding wreath and palm branch. In l. field: T. Exergue illegible.
Æ, ↗, 2.39 g, 15 mm.
Cf. *RIC* X:338, No. 1357.

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