

## COINS FROM YAFO (JAFFA), YEHUDA HA-YAMMIT STREET

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Eight coins were found during the salvage excavations on Yehuda Ha-Yammit Street in Yafo (see Haddad and Rauchberger, this volume), four of which were identified.<sup>1</sup> The coins range in date from the Byzantine period (beginning of the fourth century CE) to the mid-thirteenth century CE.

The two earliest coins are a small module Byzantine bronze (335–341 CE; Cat. No. 1) and an eighth-century CE copper post-reform Umayyad *fals* (Cat. No. 2). Two of the later medieval-period coins are of particular interest. One (Cat. No. 3) is a copper *tank* of the Armenian ruler Levon I, minted in Sis, capital of the medieval kingdom of Cilician Armenia. Coin finds from the Armenian kingdom are relatively rare in the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. At present, some 25 specimens found in about fifteen sites throughout the kingdom are known. The majority of these coins come from its cities, towns and *burgi*, but a few appear also in rural sites, evidence of the continuous connections between the two Christian kingdoms, especially from the Third Crusade onward (Der Nersessian 1962:645–653; Mutaftian 1993). From the Frankish *burgus* of Jaffa, one other specimen, dated to the reign of Hetoum I (1226–1271 CE), was excavated in 2009 in the lower city (Kool 2017: Cat. No. 3).

The fourth coin (Cat. No. 4) is an ordinary *fals* dated to the reign of Al-Naṣir Yusuf II, the Ayyubid ruler of Damascus in the mid-thirteenth century CE, and it mentions the Abbasid caliph al-Mustansim; therefore, it is dated to 1250–1258 CE. Such coins are regularly found in contexts of the Frankish/Ayyubid period; however, this coin was found in an important context within a sand fill mixed with crushed limestone lying on the bedrock of the moat's southern counterscarp. According to the excavator (see Haddad and Rauchberger, this volume), this context provides a date for the possible demolition of the moat after the city's conquest by Baybars in 1268 CE and the subsequent systematic destruction of its fortifications (Boas 2011:124).

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<sup>1</sup> The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratories, headed by Lena Kuperschmidt, and were photographed by Clara Amit.

## CATALOGUE

1. Reg. No. 1089, L127, IAA 145748.

335–341 CE.

*Obv.*: Bust r.

*Rev.*: [GLORIA EXERCITVS] Two soldiers facing, between them, a standard.

↑, Æ, 1.26 g, 15 mm.

LRBC I:31, No. 1375.

2. Reg. No. 2140, L198, IAA 145749.

Umayyad, eighth century CE.

*Obv.*: Within circle: لالة / الالة / وحدة

*Rev.*: Illegible.

Æ, 3.56 g, 20 × 16 mm.

3. Reg. No. 2230, L202, IAA 145750.

Levon I, Sis, medieval Armenia, 1198/9–1219 CE.

*Obv.*: Bust of king with beard and crown. Marginal legend in Armenian: “Levon king of the Armenians”.

*Rev.*: Double cross with two crosses; in field: two stars. Marginal legend in Armenian: “struck in the city of Sis”.

↓, Æ, *tank*, 6.37 g, 30 mm.

Cf. Bedoukian 1962:218, No. 709.



4. Reg. No. 1186, L503, IAA 145751.

Al-Naṣir Yusuf II Salāḥ al-Dīn, sultan in Damascus, AH 648–658/1220–1258 CE, citing the caliph al-Mustansim AH 640–650/1242–1258 CE.

*Obv.*: Thin dotted square in a square of pellets [الملك الناصر]

*Rev.*: Thin dotted square in a square of pellets [الامام المتعصم]

Æ, *fals*, 1.38 g, 21 mm.

Cf. Balog 1980:234, No. 760.



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