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Coins from the Early Islamic-Period Residential Quarter Northwest of Tel Lod

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A hundred and sixty-three coins were discovered during excavations northwest of Tel Lod (see Haddad, this volume), 85 of them are described in the catalogue below.[1] All the coins are bronze, with the exception of two billon *dirhams* (Nos. 75 and 77), three silver *dirhams* (Nos. 78, 79 and 81) and a lead Fatimid coin (No. 76). Figure 1 shows the breakdown of the identifiable coins by period. Most of the archaeological remains excavated at the site are dated to the Early Islamic period. Seemingly, the coins dating from the transitional Arab-Byzantine period to the Early Islamic period (Umayyad and Abbasid) constitute the bulk of the numismatic evidence at the site (about 47% of the identifiable coins).

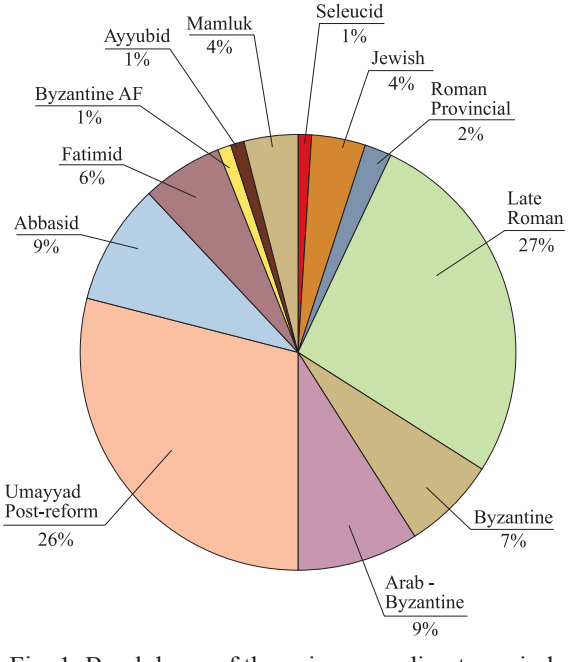

Fig. 1. Breakdown of the coins according to periods.

[1] The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratories, under the direction of Lena Kupperschmidt, and were photographed by Clara Amit of the IAA. The Islamic coins were identified by Ariel Berman and Robert Kool.

Twenty-three coins, 34% of the total identifiable coins, are dated to the fourth and fifth centuries CE. These, together with coin Nos. 1–6, which date from the Seleucid to the Roman periods, are residual and therefore, are not related to any archaeological stratum at the site. Worthy of mention among the early coins is coin No. 5, of Antoninus Pius, minted in Gaza in 154/155 CE. The Late Roman coin types are quite conventional and do not deserve further discussion.

The Byzantine and Early Islamic coins show a chronological sequence of occupation at the site from the sixth to the eleventh centuries CE. Among the Byzantine coins are a half *follis* of Maurice from Thessalonica dated to 588/589 (No. 30), a sixth-century *dodecanummium* from Alexandria (No. 31) and a *follis* of Phocas minted in Antioch in 603/604 (No. 32). Eight coins represent the transitional period during the second half of the seventh century CE, most of them belong to the common type depicting the imperial standing figure (Nos. 35–41). Most interesting are two pre-reform Umayyad coins minted in Tiberias (Nos. 42–43). These coins circulated primarily within the boundaries of Jund el-Urdun, and their appearance in the Lod area is quite unusual.

As stated above, most coins discovered in the excavation are common post-reform Umayyad types (Nos. 44–66), with the exception of a *fals* of caliph Marwān II, minted in Misr (Cairo) and dated to 749 CE (No. 67). Six of the Umayyad coins were minted in al-Ramla; this is not surprising due to the geographical proximity between the two cities. Two of the eight Abbasid coins found at the site were minted in al-Ramla as well (No. 68 is dated to 832 CE, and No. 69 is dated to 846 CE). Five Fatimid coins (Nos. 75–79) might attest to a later occupation at the site; one of them is an unpublished lead issue (No. 76). In addition, there is a Byzantine Anonymous *follis* of Class F, dating from the same period of time (No. 80). Four Mamluk coins constitute the latest finds at the site (Nos. 82–85).

Fig. 2. Coins (see Catalogue, below).

CATALOGUE[i]

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
						SELEUCIDS **Antiochus IV (175–164 BCE)**					
1	2367	346	1.44	12		Head r., radiate	Obliterated		ʻAkko-Ptolemais	Serrated; Cf. *SNG* Israel I:156, No. 1131	113505
						HASMONEANS **Alexander Janneus (103–76 BCE)–*pruṭa***					
2	6248	8040	1.06	16		[ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ] Anchor	Star within diadem	103–80/79 BCE	Jerusalem	*TJC*:209, Group K	117707
3	3622	670	0.75	13		Obliterated	Traces of letters. Star within circle	80/79–76 BCE	Same	*TJC*:210, No. L10	113528
						FIRST JEWISH REVOLT ***pruṭa***					
4	2464	Dump	2.45	17	↓	[ש]נת שתי[ם] Amphora	חרת ציון Vine leaf	Year two = 67/68	Jerusalem	*TJC*:241, No. 196	113543
						ROMAN PROVINCIAL **Antoninus Pius (138–161 CE)**					
5*	2867	487	7.32	23	↑	ANTWNINO [AYT KAIC] Head r., laureate	ΓΑΖΑ Tyche stg. l., holding scepter and cornucopia. To l., heifer and date: *EIC*	Year 215 = 154/155	Gaza	Rosenberger 1975:60, No. 92	117690
						Uncertain					
6	3875	700	1.56	11		Obliterated	[---] Prow of galley	1st–2nd c.	Ascalon? Aelia Capitolina?		113539

[i] All coins are bronze, unless otherwise stated. Coins with an asterisk appear in Fig. 2.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
						LATE ROMAN					
						Constantius II (323–361 CE)					
7	1481	190	2.86	19	↑	FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOBC Bust r. laureate, cuirassed and draped	PROVIDENTIAE CAESS Camp-gate. In ex.:]NB•	324–330	Nicomedia	*LRBC* 1:26, No. 1089	117676
						Constantinus II (337–340 CE)					
8*	7046	8315	1.55	17	↑	CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C Bust r., laureate, cuirassed and draped	GLORIA EXERCITVS Two soldiers stg. facing, between them a standard. In exergue: SMAN	337–341	Antioch	*LRBC* 1:31, No. 1364	117709
						House of Constantine – Uncertain					
9	2920	486	1.10	15	↓	]NVS PF AVG Head r., laureate	GLORIA EXERCITVS Two soldiers stg. facing, between them a standard. Mintmark illegible	335–341		Cf. *LRBC* 1:31, No. 1364	117692
10	1450	203	1.31	14	↓	]STAN[---] AVG Head r., pearl-diademed	Within wreath: VOT/XX/MVLT/XXX Mintmark illegible	341–346		Cf. *LRBC* 1:31, No. 1391	117677
11	3879	Surface	0.82	13		[---] Head r., pearl-diademed	Vota inscription within wreath. Mintmark illegible	Same		Same	113546
12	5199	837	1.11	10 × 13		Obliterated	Same	Same		Same. Fragment	117702
						Constantius II (323–361 CE)					
13	2716	445	1.56	11 × 13	↑	[---] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	[FEL TEMP REP]ARATIO Virtus spearing fallen horseman. In l. field: M. Mintmark illegible	355–361		*LRBC* 2:100, No. 2637	117683

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
14	2195	378	1.40	16	↑	]TIVS[Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	[FEL TEMP REPARATIO] Virtus spearing fallen horseman. Mintmark illegible	351–361		*LRBC* 2:87, No. 2039	113512
15	2322	396	1.05	12 × 17	↖	Same	Same	Same		Same	113519
16	3573	672	1.35	14		Obliterated	Same	Same		Same	113529
17	2798	447	1.29	14	↑	]NOP[Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	Same	Same		Imitation	117685
						Uncertain					
17	1105	130	0.85	10	↑	[---] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	[SPES REIPVBLICE] Virtus stg. facing, holding globe and spear. Mintmark illegible	355–361		Cf. *LRBC* 2:87, No. 2053	113500
						Julian II (361–363 CE)					
18	2630	445	5.16	26 × 29	↓	[---] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	SECVRITAS REIPVB Bull stg. r. Mintmark illegible	361–363		Cf. *LRBC* 2:100, No. 2640. Pierced	117680
						Uncertain					
19	1104	130	1.50	12	↓	[---] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	[SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE] Victory advancing l. holding palm branch and wreath	364–375		Cf. *LRBC* 2:87, Nos. 2072–2073	113499
20	2685	445	1.24	13	↑	[---] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	VICTORI]A A[VG Two Victories stg. facing each other, holding wreaths. Mintmark illegible	383–392	Thessalonica?	Cf. *LRBC* 2:82, Nos. 1867–1869	117682
21	2002	Wall cleaning	1.28	16		CONSTAN[---] PF AVG Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	Obliterated	First half 4th c.			113540

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
22	2655	446	1.83	14		[---] Head r.	Obliterated	Same			117684
23	5101	810	1.02	13		Same	Same	4th c.			117697
24	2919	493	0.77	9 × 11		Obliterated	Figure stg.?	Same			117693
25	2857	485	1.49	14	↖	[---] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	[GLORIA ROMANORVM] Three emperors stg. facing. Mintmark illegible	395–408		Cf. *LRBC* 2:102, Nos. 2801–2804	117691
26	5306	852	0.67	13	↑	[---]VS PF AVG Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	[CONCORDIA AVGGG] Cross? Mintmark illegible	Same		Cf. *LRBC* 2:102, Nos. 2806–2808	117703
						Theodosius II (402–450 CE)					
27*	2879	494	0.67	12	↑	DN THEODOSIVS PF AVG Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	CONCORDIA AVG Victory stg. facing, holding wreath in each hand. In exergue: [S]MK	425–435	Cyzicus	*RIC* X:274, No. 437	117694
						Uncertain					
28	2462	406	0.67	10		Obliterated	Figure stg.?	5th century			113522
						BYZANTINE **Justin I (518–527 CE)–*Follis***					
29	2350	Balk	9.95	29	↓	]VS PP AVG Bust r., diademed, draped and cuirassed	**M** flanked by eight-rays stars; above cross; below Є; in exergue: CON	518–522	Constanti-nople	*MIBE* 1:96, No. 11	113541
						Maurice Tiberius (582–602 CE)–Half *Follis*					
30*	286	475	4.64	22	↓	[---] Bust facing, crowned, holding globus cruciger	**K** to l.: ANNO; above cross; to r. date: ϒIII; in exergue: TES	588/589	Thessalonica	*DOC* 1:322, No. 79	117687

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
						Uncertain–*Dodecanummium*					
31	2358	351	1.86	13	↓	[---] Bust r., draped and cuirassed	I†B in exergue: [AΛEΞ]	522–565	Alexandria	Cf. *MIBE* 1:152, No. 165 (Justinian I)	113506
						Phocas (602–610 CE) ***Follis***					
32*	3735	680	8.62	26	↓	[ON]FO[CA NEPEAV] Phocas and Leontia stg. facing. Between them above, cross	m to l.: ANNO; above, cross; in r. date: II; in exergue: tHEU[P']	603/604	Antioch	Cf. *DOC* 2/1:187, No. 84	113533
						Half *Follis*					
33	1476	188	5.37	24	↙	dN FO[---] Bust facing	xx dates illegible; in exergue: NIK	603–609	Nicomedia	Cf. *DOC* 2/1:179, No. 62	117675
34	5111	810	4.88	23		[---] Two figures stg. facing? Undertype: XX / CO	K details illegible	Early 7th c.		Overstruck; identification uncertain	117699
						Arab-Byzantine ***Follis* Imitation**					
35*	2368	377	3.88	19 × 25		Imperial figure stg. facing, holding cross on globe and long cross	m to l.: ANA; in exergue: III	c. 647–670		Cf. *SICA 1*: Group E; overstruck	113509
36	2272	371	3.31	18	↓	Same	m to l.: [---]A; to r.: Є	Same		Same	113508
37*	3866	676	3.04	13 × 20	↑	Same	m above cross	Same		Same; rectangular flan	113531
38	5053	802	3.45	24	↗	Same	Same	Same		Same	117696
39	3064	553	2.87	23	→	Same	Same	Same		Same; cut from 1/3 *follis*	117711
40	6392	8088	2.80	21		Same	Same	Same		Same	117708

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
41	3924	689	2.14	23		Same	Same	Same		Same; irregular cut	113537
						Arab-Byzantine–Anonymous					
42*	2376	378	3.58	22	↑	Three imperial figures stg. facing	**M** in l.: THBEPI; above ☩; in exergue: AΔO; to r.: طبرية	c. 675–680	Tiberias	Cf. *SICA* 1: Pl. 40, No. 590	113515
43	6147	8032	2.84	17	↑	Same	**M** محمد رسول الله	Same	Same	Cf. *SNAT* 1993:30, No. 283	117706
						UMAYYAD **Anonymous–Post-Reform** ***Fals***					
44	6152	8030	1.90	13		لا اله الا الله وحده	محمد رسول الله Scorpion within circle	8th c.		Walker 1956:204, No. 598	117705
45	2086	343	4.56	16 ×18		لا اله الا الله وحده	محمد رسول الله	Same		Walker 1956:209, No. 631	113502
46	3672	677	4.15	18		Within circle: لا اله الا الله وحده Around, traces of marginal legend	Within circle: محمد رسول الله Around, traces of marginal legend	Same		Walker 1956:253, No. 838	113532
47	3005	535	1.83	25		Obliterated	Marginal legend: ضرب محمد رسول الله	Same	Al-Ramla	Cf. *SNAT* 1993:12, No. 48	117710
48	3871	686	2.11	20		Within double circle with striations: لا اله الا الله وحده	Marginal legend: بالرماه [[محمد رسول الله To r. palm branch	Same	Same	Walker 1956:255, No. 846	113536
49	3574	670	3.02	25		Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	113527
50	2351	356	3.79	23		Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	113507

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
51	3518	670	2.69	13		Marginal legend: لااله الا اال وحده Within central circle: palm branch	Marginal legend: ضرب عذا الفلس بالرملة Within central circle: crescent with dot	Same	Same	Walker 1956:257, Nos. 855–863	113525
52	1510	208	1.44	15		Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	117679
53*	2145	342	3.30	27		Marginal legend: لله الملك فلس واف Center: لااله الا اال وحده	Marginal legend: palm branch; ضرب بفلسطين Center: محمد رسول الله	Same	Jund Filastin	Walker 1956:276, No. 911	113501
54	2378	390	4.04	13		محمد رسول الله	Obliterated	Same			113516
55	2811	479	3.63	15		Obliterated	الله[---]	Same			117689
56	5080	818	3.60	16		لاا [---]	[محمد] رسول الله	Same			117700
57	2366	346	3.41	16		Within circle: بسم الله لااله الاالله محمد	Center: محمد رسول الله	Same			113504
58	3535	669	2.93	15		Obliterated	Obliterated	Same			113524
59	2808	466	2.89	20		لا اله الا الله وحده	Marginal legend: ضرب محمد رسول الله	Same			117686
60	2469	Dump	2.83	13		لا اله الا الله[وحده]	Obliterated	Same			113545
61	2369	377	2.33	13		لا اله الا الله[وحده]	Center: محمد رسول الله	Same			113510
62	2144	378	2.06	20		Obliterated	Center: محمد رسول الله	Same			113511
63	5110	810	1.72	12		لا اله الا الله[وحده]	Obliterated	Same			117698
64	2603	425	1.00	15		لا اله الا الله[وحده]	Obliterated	Same			113523
65	2370	393	1.21	8		[لا اله] الا الله[وحده]	محمد] رسول[الله	Same			113517

Catalogue (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
						Caliph Marwān II and Finance Director ‘Abd al-Malik ibn Marwān–*Fals*					
67	1229	148	3.27	17		In field: ضرب Marginal legend illegible	In field: [اتريب] Marginal legend illegible	AH 132 = 749	Misr	Walker 1956:227, No. ANS. 37	113547
						ABBASIDS Anonymous–*Fals*					
68	2463	Dump	4.43	21		Within cable-like circle: لااله الا الله وحده لاشريكله	Marginal legend: بشم الله ضرب هذا لقلس بالرملة سنت سبع عثمن وماتين Center: محمد رسول الل بح	AH 217 = 832	Al-Ramla	Cf. *SNAT* 1993:14, No. 100	113542
						Governor Ja’afar–*Fals*					
69	5202	834	2.15	22		Obliterated	] حعفر	AH 232 = 846	Al-Ramla	Cf. *SNAT* 1993:14, No. 104–110	117701
						Uncertain Anonymous–*Fals*					
70*	3870	686	1.60	11		لا اله الا الله وحده لاشريكله	محمد رسول الل بح بح	9th c.			113535
71	2365	404	1.42	14 × 17		لا اله الا الله وحده لاشريكله	Obliterated	Same		Folded coin	113520
72	3536	670	1.25	16		Within a double circle: لا اله الا الله وحده لاشريكله	محمد رسول الل يزد	Same			113526
73	2468	Dump	0.63	14		لا اله الا [الله] محمد[	Obliterated	Same			113544
74	1462	204	0.87	18		Obliterated	Obliterated	Same			117678
						FATIMIDS ‘Abd Allah Ma’add al-Mu’izz li-Din Allah Billon Half *Dirham*					
75*	2204	378	1.93	17		Four concentric circles containing three marginal legends. In center, bull’s eye بالمنصورية[---] واربعين و ثلثمائة	Four concentric circles containing three marginal legends. In center, bull’s eye	AH 34		Nicol 2006:61, No. 443	113513

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
						Abū ‘Ali al-Mansūr al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah **Lead**					
76*	3661	675	0.50	12		بامر الله الحاكم	على	Undated		Unpublished	113530
						Abū Tamim Ma’add al-Mustansir billah **AH. 427–487/1036–1094 CE** **Billon—Fraction of *dirham***					
77*	2372	393	0.28	6 × 10		معد المستنصر]	[---] لله			Cut Cf. Nicol 2006:32, No. 234; unknown variant of Type M3–M4	113518
						Uncertain **Silver–Fraction of *dirham***					
78*	2375	378	0.32	10		Three concentric circles containing two illegible marginal legends. In center, bull’s eye	Three concentric circles containing two illegible marginal legends. In center, bull’s eye [---] محمد			Cut as triangle. Nicol 2006:85, No. 656	113514
79	2354	344	0.14	5		Obliterated	Obliterated				113503
						BYZANTINE **Anonymous *Follis*(?) Class F**					
80	3872	685	2.47	26		Jesus seated facing on throne	– + – IS XS bASILE bASIL’+	1060–1065	Constantinople	Cf. *DOC* 3/2:690, No. F.1	113534
						AYYUBIDS **Uncertain–Silver *Dirham***					
81	5006	800	3.45	18		Traces of legend	[---] الدين				117695

Catalogue (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
						MAMLUKS **Al-'Adil Kitbughā Zayh al-Din** **AH 696–696/1294–1341 CE** ***Fals***					
82	2654	445	2.34	13		[---] اسلطا الملك	Chalice			Balog 1964:128, No. 161	117681
						Al-Nasir Muhammad Nasir al-Din (third reign) **AH 709–741/1310–1341 CE** ***Fals***					
83	6008	8001	2.31	16		الملك الناص	Five-petaled rosette. Illegible legend	AH 730 = 1329		Balog 1964:162, No. 261	117704
						Al-Zahir Barqūq Sayf al-Din (first reign) **AH 784–791/1302–1389 CE** ***Fals***					
84	2357	405	2.35	18		Upper segment:] بر[قوق Central segment: الملك اظاهى Lower segment: ضرب[بدمشق]	Hexagram. Illegible legend			Cf. Balog 1964:258, No. 559	113521
						Uncertain ***Fals***					
85	3874	697	1.71	19		[---] اسلطا الملك	Obliterated	End 14th c.			113538

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