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The Coins from Miska

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In the excavation conducted at Miska (see Spivak, this volume), eleven coins were found, five of which were identified.[1] The earliest identifiable coin is a bronze coin from the reign of Trebonianus Gallus (251–253 CE), minted in Neapolis (No. 1). It was found within the bottom layer of the refuse pit in Area A (L131; see Spivak, this volume) together with pottery and glass dated to the fourth–fifth centuries CE (see Vincenz, this volume; Gorin-Rosen, this volume). Two early Byzantine bronze *nummi* of the same period (Nos. 2 and 3) were found in the middle and upper layers of the refuse pit (L127, L121), also occurring together with large amounts of ceramic sherds and glass dated to the fourth–fifth centuries CE.

The two remaining identified coins come from mixed fills. The earlier specimen is a copper *follis* dated to the first year of the thirty-year-long reign of the Byzantine emperor Heraclius I (610/611 CE; No. 4). It was issued in the imperial mint of Cyzicus, coins from which rarely circulated in Byzantine Palestine, where most of the coins were specimens issued by the central mint at Constantinople. Cyzicus minted large issues of coins during the early years of Heraclius' reign, but its activities ceased after 615 CE, with the beginning of the decade-long Sassanian occupation of Asia Minor (*DOC* 2/1:219). The latest coin is a *fals* of the Mamluk ruler al-Manṣūr Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn Muḥammad (AH 762–764/1361–1363 CE; No. 5).

Catalogue

1. Reg. No. 1235, L131, IAA 119923.
Trebonianus Gallus (251–253 CE), Neapolis.
Obv.: [AVT KAIC]TOVI TREB ΓAΛOV Bust r.
Rev.: [ΦΛNEAC]ΠOΛEWC Mount Gerizim supported by eagle.
Æ, ↓, 9.42 g, 24 mm.
Rosenberger 1977:23, Nos. 112, 113.

[1] The coins were cleaned in the metals laboratory of the IAA, headed by Lena Kupferschmidt, and were photographed by Clara Amit of the IAA photography studio.

2. Reg. No. 1135, L121, IAA 119927.
Byzantine, 383–395 CE.
Obv.: Bust r.
Rev.: [SALVS REI PVBLICAE] victory to l., dragging captive.
Æ, ↓, 1.00 g, 10 mm.
LRBC II:102, No. 2768.

3. Reg. No. 1192, L127, IAA 119924.
Byzantine, fourth–fifth centuries CE.
Obv.: Bust r.
Æ, 1.13 g, 11 mm.

4. Reg. No. 1151, L104, IAA 119926.
Heraclius I, Cyzicus, 610/611 CE.
Obv.: [---]hRA[---]PC Bust facing, holding cross in r. hand.
Rev.: **M** above cross; to l., ANNO; to r. II +
In ex.: KYZ
Æ, ↓, 7.53 g, 29 mm.
DOC 2/1:321, No. 168.

5. Reg. No. 126, L1173, IAA 119925.
Al-Manṣūr Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn Muḥammad, Damascus, AH 762–764/1361–1363 CE.
Obv.: Triangle with interwoven sides, three peripheric segments and central area.
In center: محمد
Rev.: Same.
In center: ضرب
Æ *fals*, 2.66 g, 27 mm.
Cf. Balog 1964:204, No. 388.

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