'Atiqot 100, 2020

The Coins from Rabbi Yehuda Me-Raguza Street, Yafo (Jaffa)

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A total of 30 coins were unearthed during salvage excavations conducted on Rabbi Yehuda Me-Raguza Street (see Arbel and Rauchberger, this volume), of which 16 were identified.[1] The coins came from four of seven strata (VI, III–I), dated to the Hellenistic (third century BCE), Crusader (twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE), late Ottoman (late eighteenth–early twentieth centuries) and British Mandate (1942) periods. These coin finds join the more than 2500 coins excavated in Yafo over the past 60 years, reflecting the city's long and multi-layered history (Kool, in press).

Three coins (Cat. Nos. 1–3) span the period of the port-city's incorporation into the Ptolemaic and Seleucid empires and the city's Palestinian-Phoenician sea trade network with Tyre and Antioch in the third and second centuries BCE. From this period also dates a second century BCE pomegranate bronze of Side in Pamphylia (Cat. No. 5). Some seven coins of this city in Asia Minor have been discovered in excavations in Yafo alone, while provenanced finds of Sidetan bronzes in Israel now exceed 130. Scholars associate the relatively common circulation of these coins in Israel, Syria and Cyprus during the Hellenistic period with a variety of reasons, such as an influx of mercenaries, trade or a supply of small bronze change (Ariel 2000:35); however, more research is needed to provide a more detailed explanation of the coinage's appearance.

Among the Hellenistic-period finds is a single Hasmonean bronze coin of Alexander Yannai (Cat. No. 4). Relatively large numbers of these Jewish *prutot* (some 60) have been found in Yafo's excavations. Like the large hoard of these coins (n = 851), most of these date to the reign of Alexander Yannai, when the city was incorporated into the Hasmonean empire (Kindler 1954). Another three coins date to the Roman-Byzantine period (Cat. Nos. 6–8), a time span relatively well-represented among the coin finds of Yafo.

The remainder of the coins belong to the Ottoman and British Mandate periods. These include an Ottoman copper from the early fifteenth–sixteenth centuries (Cat. No. 9), a small eighteenth-century silver *para* and five coppers minted during the second half of

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

Fig. 1.

the nineteenth–early twentieth centuries (Cat. Nos. 10–14). These finds reflect the overall pattern of Ottoman-period coins recovered from excavations in Yafo over the past 60 years (Pamuk 2000). The latest coin is a 1942 *mil* minted under the authority of the British Mandate (Cat. No. 16).

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CATALOGUE[i]

No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	IAA No.
						Ptolemy I (305–283 BCE)					
1*	524	5202	2.89	15		Diademed head with aegis	Eagle stg. l. with open wings on thunderbolt. In front: club		Tyre	*SNG* Ptolemies: No. 480	144613
						SELEUCIDS **Antiochus VII (138–129 BCE)**					
2*	105	1006	6.14	20	↑	Bust of Winged Eros	ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ - ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ Isis headdress resting on two ears of grain; above inverted crescent, within: star	c. 137/136 BCE	Antioch	*SC* II/1:367, No. 2067 (7)	144616
						Seleucid					
3	628	6154	2.34	15	↑	Bust r.	Palm tree	198–126/5 BCE	Tyre	Cf. *SC* II/1:85, No. 1462	144615
						HASMONEANS **Alexander Yannai (104–76 BCE)**					
4	386	3269	1.88	14	↑	Paleo-Hebrew Inscription in center: יהונת/ן הכהן/גדל וחב/רהי	Double cornucopiae with pomegranate in between horns		Jerusalem	*TJC*:212, subgroup No. P4	144610
						HELLENISTIC **3rd–2nd c. BCE**					
5*	372	3207	3.54	17 × 19	↑	Helmeted head r.	Pomegranate		Side	*BMC* Pamphylia:150, No. 59	144609
						ROMAN **Roman Prefects in Judea** **Nero (54–68 CE)**					
6*	371	3240	2.48	16		Inscription in wreath: [N]E/WNO/C	Palm branch; inscription: LE K[AICA]POC	Year 5 = 58/59	Jerusalem	*TJC*: No. 345	144612
						Roman Provincial (2nd–3rd centuries CE)					
7	438	4153	7.91	21		Bust r.	Illegible				144611

[i] Coin numbers marked with as asterisk appear in Fig. 1.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	IAA No.
						BYZANTINE **518–537, *follis***					
8	818	8074	12.14	29	↑	Bust r.	**M**				144575
						OTTOMANS **15th–16th c. *mangir***					
9	528	5160	0.57	10		Illegible	Illegible; Fleur-de-lis pointing below, between two stars				144614
						Abdul Mecid, 1255–1277 AH/1839–1861 CE **10 *Para***					
10	707	7024	4.77	28		Tugra Year: 12	Azze nasruhu duribe phi Kostantiniye	1850/51	Konstantiniye	Pere 1968:261, No. 908	
						40 *Para*					
11	634	6174	20.50	38		Tugra Year: 17	Same	1855/56	Same	Pere 1968:261, No. 902	
12	705	7015	1952	37		Tugra Year: 18	Same	1856/57	Same	Same	
						Abdul Aziz, 1277–1293 AH/1861–1873 CE **20 *Para***					
13	700	7000	10.23	32		Tugra Year: 4	Azze nasruhu duribe phi Kostantiniye	1864/5	Same	Pere 1968:261, No. 946	
						Abdul Hamid, 1293–1327 AH/1876–1909 CE **5 *Para***					
14	806	8072	2.43	22		Tugra	Azze nasruhu duribe phi Kostantiniye		Same	Pere 1968:261, No. 996	
						OTTOMAN **18th c., *para***					
15	634	6166	0.19	15		Illegible	Misr…		Cairo	Pere 1968:250, No. 818	
						BRITISH MANDATE OF PALESTINE **5 *Mils***					
16	700	7027	2.83	20		Trilingual inscription of Palestine, center hole	Trilingual denomination, center hole	1942		Berlin 2005:38	