'Atiqot 105, 2021

The Coins from Tel Ḥanan

Donald T. Ariel

Three coins were recovered from Area A at Tel Ḥanan (see Nagorsky and Israeli, this volume):[1] a Ptolemaic coin and two Seleucid *tetradrachm*s. The Ptolemaic coin (No. 1) was unearthed on a floor (L26) of the latest phase of the Persian-period building (Stratum II, Phase B; see Nagorsky and Israeli, this volume: Plan 2). The two Seleucid *tetradrachm*s (Nos. 2, 3) were found together on a floor (L3) of the Hellenistic-period building (Stratum I; see Nagorsky and Israeli, this volume: Plan 3), immediately above the floor in which Coin No. 1 was exposed. They allow for dating the Hellenistic building in the early years of the last quarter of the second century BCE (see below).

Late Seleucid *tetradrachm*s, and *tetradrachm*s of Demetrius II in particular, are common in Hellenistic-period sites in the region. Three *tetradrachm*s of Demetrius II were unearthed in proximity to each other in excavations at Tel Gezer (Barag 2014:246, Nos. 13–15). *Tetradrachm*s of Demetrius II were also found at Yodefat,[2] Gamla (Syon 2014:160, Nos. 243–246)[3] and Jerusalem (Ariel 1982:312, No. 12). A *tetradrachm* of Demetrius II dated to 128/127 BCE was retrieved from Masada (Meshorer 1989:86, No. 17). Even at Ḥorbat Zemel, a small village in the northern Golan Heights, two silver coins of Demetrius II were exposed (Ariel 2002:121*, Nos. 2 and 5). The wide distribution and high quality of these coins encouraged their continued circulation; thus, *tetradrachm*s of Demetrius II have been found in hoards deposited in much later periods, e.g., a coin in the hoard from Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, dating after 30 BCE (Sukenik 1949:102–103), and three coins in the Qumran hoard, dating after 9/8 BCE (one of them was published; see Sharabani 1980:276, No. 3). Therefore, although the two *tetradrachm*s from Tel Ḥanan point to a date at the beginning of the last quarter of the second century BCE, their date of deposition may be later.

---

[1] The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratories of the Israel Antiquities Authority by Ella Altmark and photographed by Clara Amit.

[2] One of them (IAA No. 46958) is included in a table published by Adan-Bayewitz and Aviam 1997:158, while another (IAA No. 48859) is from the period of that king's second reign.

[3] Coin No. 244 is of the same date as our Coin No. 3.

CATALOGUE

1. Reg. No. 166, L26, IAA 84749.
Ptolemaic (c. 294–265 BCE), *diobol*
Obv.: Head of Zeus r.
Rev.: [- - -] Eagle l. [on thunderbolt], wings open.
Æ, ↑, 15.84 g, 28 mm.
Cf. *CPE* I/II:16, No. B40. The coin is in a very poor condition.

2. Reg. No. 159, L3, IAA 84748.
Demetrius II, Tyre, 130/129–126/125 BCE.
Obv.: Diademed head r.
Rev.: [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ]–ΔΗΜ]ΗΤΡΙΟΥ] Eagle standing l. on prow, palm branch behind r. shoulder; to l.: 𐤀𐤓 and club surmounted by 𐤉; in r. field: [·]Π[Ρ] and Α𐤔; between eagle's legs: 𐤓𐤀
Æ tetradrachm, ↑, 12.31 g, 27 mm.
Cf. SC II/I:294, No. 2218.

3. Reg. No. 153, L3, IAA 84747.
Demetrius II, Tyre, 129/128 BCE.
Obv.: Diademed head r.
Rev.: [ΒΑΣΙ]ΛΕΩΣ–Δ[ΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ] Eagle standing l. on prow, palm branch behind r. shoulder; to l.: 𐤀𐤓 and club surmounted by 𐤉; in r. field: ΔΠΡ and Α𐤔; between eagle's legs: [- - -]
Æ *tetradrachm*, ↑, 12.54 g, 25 × 28 mm.
Cf. SC II/I:429, No. 2195.2.

References

Adan-Bayewitz D. and Aviam M. 1997. Iotapata, Josephus, and the Siege of 67: Preliminary Report on the 1992–94 Seasons. *JRA* 10:131–165.

Ariel D.T. 1982. A Survey of Coin Finds in Jerusalem (until the End of the Byzantine Period). *LA* 32:273–326.

Ariel D.T. 2002. The Coins from Khirbet Zemel. In Z. Gal ed. *Eretz Zafon: Studies in Galilean Archaeology.* Jerusalem. Pp. 119*–122*.

Barag D. 2014. The Coins from Gezer. In G. Gilmour. *Gezer* VI: *The Objects from Phases I and II (1964–1974)* (ANGSBA X). Jerusalem–Winona Lake. Pp. 242–250.

CPE I/II: C.C. Lorber. *Coins of the Ptolemaic Empire: Ptolemy I through Ptolemy IV I, II. Bronze.* New York 2018.

Meshorer Y. 1989. The Coins. In *Masada* I: *The Yigael Yadin Excavations 1963–1965; Final Reports.* Jerusalem. Pp. 71–132.

Nagorsky A. and Israeli S. This volume. A Persian- and Hellenistic-Period Settlement at Tel Ḥanan.

SC II/I: A. Houghton, C. Lorber and O. Hoover. *Seleucid Coins. A Comprehensive Catalogue; Seleucus IV through Antiochus XIII* II, I: *Introduction, Maps and Catalogue*. New York–Lancaster, Pa.–London 2008.

Sharabani M. 1980. Monnaies de Qumrân au musée Rockefeller de Jérusalem. *RB* 87:274–284.

Sukenik E.L. 1949. A Find of Tyrian Shekels on the Grounds of the Hebrew University. In Y. Baer, Y. Guttman and M. Schwabe eds. *Dinaburg Anniversary Volume*. Jerusalem. Pp. 102–103 (Hebrew).

Syon D. 2014. Coins. In D. Syon. *Gamla* III, 1: *The Shmarya Gutmann Excavations 1976–1989; Finds and Studies* (IAA Reports 56). Jerusalem. Pp. 109–231.