

COINS FROM THE POOLS OF 'EIN EL-JARAB, ḤAMMAT GADER

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A total of 189 bronze coins, of which only 52 were identifiable, were retrieved from the Ḥammāt Gader salvage excavations (see Catalogue, below; Fig. 1; see Hartal, this volume). The coins were difficult to distinguish as most of them ($n = 75$) were tiny illegible *minimi*, deposited together within a layer of earth mixed with large quantities of potsherds and glass dated to the Byzantine period (L306). Most of the identifiable coins were poorly preserved.¹

The earliest coins are a serrated coin (Seleucid; No. 1) and a coin of Festus, the Roman governor under Nero (59 CE; No. 2). However, these were recovered in later archaeological contexts and thus have no significance regarding the beginning of occupation at the site. According to the numismatic evidence, the slope east of 'Ein el-Jarab was first settled during the second half of the fourth century CE (Stratum 4). Only a few of the specimens dated to the fourth–fifth centuries CE are legible; they are of standard types.

The structure attributed to Stratum 4 continued in use during the Byzantine period (Stratum 3). The bulk of the coins assigned to this phase date to the fourth–sixth centuries CE, most of them deposited in the layer of mixed earth noted above (L306). The latest issues from this group are two *nummia* of Justinian I, minted in Carthage (Nos. 17, 18). The presence of fourth-century CE *minimi* within numismatic contexts of the first half of the sixth century is well-known (Bijovsky 2000–2002:205–207). The latest coins attributed to this phase are those of the Umayyad caliph Al-Walid I, dated to the beginning of the eighth century CE (Nos. 26, 27) and an Umayyad post-Reform *fals* (No. 39). The latest coins found within the fill of the well adjacent to the structure (L330) date to the Umayyad (Nos. 29, 42) and Abbasid (No. 49) periods.

According to Hartal (this volume), Building A, built on the highest part of the slope at the end of the Byzantine period, was also destroyed by the earthquake of 749 CE (Stratum 2). Except for a serrated Seleucid coin, which is stratigraphically insignificant (No. 1), all the coins related to this building are Umayyad post-Reform issues dating to the eighth century CE (Nos. 24, 32, 34, 37, 38, 41 and 43). Stratum 1 Building B was erected on the remains of its Stratum 2 predecessor. No coins could be related to this last stratum.

¹ The coins were cleaned at the IAA laboratories, under the direction of Lena Kupershmidt, and were photographed by Clara Amit.

The Islamic coins are standard types. Worthy of mention is an Umayyad pre-Reform coin minted in Scythopolis (No. 21); it imitates the Byzantine prototype of Justin II.² The regional mints are represented most frequently: Tabariya (Nos. 22, 24–27) and Dimashq (Nos. 28–32).



Fig. 1. The coins.

² The term Umayyad pre-Reform is equivalent to the more accepted name Arab-Byzantine phase 2, dated to c. 670–690 CE (Schulze and Oddy 2012:194).

CATALOGUE¹

Cat. No.	Basket No.	Locus No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	IAA No.
							SELEUCIDS				
1	1091	205	2.15	13		Obliterated Antiochus IV (375–364 BCE)	[- -] Female figure stg. facing, holding scepter		'Akko-Prolemais	Serrated. SNG <i>Israel</i> I:156, Nos. 1130–1138	80515
							ROMAN PROCURATORS IN JUDEA				
2	1195	107	1.35	14	↑	NEPWNOC Inscription within wreath	LE KAICAPOC Palm branch	58/59	Jerusalem	<i>TJC</i> :260, No. 345	80508
							LATE ROMAN				
							Uncertain Ruler				
3	1115	407	0.96	13	↑	Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	VOTI X/ MVLTI XX Inscription within wreath. Mintmark illegible	378–383		Cf. <i>LRBC</i> II:101, Nos. 2732–2735	80549
							Theodosius I (379–395 CE)				
4	1198	306	1.01	14	↑	DN THEODO-SVS PF AVG Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	SALVS REI-PVBLICAE Victory advancing l., dragging captive, holding trophy. In l. field, ♀ In exergue: JKA	383–395	Cyzicus	Cf. <i>LRBC</i> II:98, Nos. 2568–2570	80531
							Fourth Century CE				
5	1261	306	1.21	12		JO[- -]JO[Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	Obliterated				80534
6	1210	206	1.15	12		Bust r.	Same				80517
7	1101	305	1.05	14		Same	Same				80524
8	1293	309	0.84	14		Same	Same				80535
9	1168	306	0.74	9		Same	Same				80527

¹ All the coins are bronze unless otherwise mentioned. The coins are listed chronologically, according to type. Coins bearing an asterisk are illustrated in Fig. 1.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket No.	Locus No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	IAA No.
10	1076A	304	0.68	13		DN VA[Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	Same				80523
						Theodosius II (402–450 CE)					
11*	1227	206	1.56	13	↑	DN THEODOSIUS PF AVG Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	GLORIA ROMANORVM] Three emperors stg. facing, holding scepters. The one in the center is shorter. In exergue: ANT	402–408	Antioch	Cf. <i>LRBC</i> II:102, Nos. 2801–2804	80518
						Fifth Century CE					
12	1173	306	0.53	9		Obliterated	Cross	First half 5th c.		Bijovsky 2000–2002: 199, No. 3	80528
13	1174	306	0.42	7		Same	Same	Same		Same	80529
14	1186	306	0.33	8		Same	Same	Same		Same	80530
						Cast Flan					
15	1122	105	0.25	9		Blank	Blank	Second half 5th c. – first half 6th c.		Bijovsky 2000–2002: 202, No. 5	80507
						BYZANTINE					
						Justinian I (527–565 CE)–Nummus					
16	1030	301	0.43	5		Obliterated	Α	534–539	Carthage	<i>DOC</i> I:170, No. 309	80519
17*	1214	306	0.42	8		Bust r.	Same	Same	Same	Same	80533
18	1199	306	0.71	8		Obliterated	Ϡ	548–565	Same	<i>DOC</i> I:170, No. 311	80532

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket No.	Locus No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	IAA No.
19*	1500	313	5.49	22	↑	[- -] Justin and Sophia seated facing on double throne	Justin II (565–578 CE)–Half-follis K in l. field: ANNO; above, cross; in r. field, date: 4; in exergue: NI	569/570	Nicomedia	DOC I:232, No. 107	80539
20	1545	620	3.88	15		Obliterated	Uncertain–Dodecanummiun I+B in exergue: A/ΛEΞ	6–7th c.	Alexandria		80558
21*	1114	305	11.60	29 × 33	↓	ΚΥΘΟ ΠΟΛΗC Two imperial figures seated facing on double throne	UMAYYAD Arab-Byzantine I (Pre-Reform), Anonymous–fals M in l. field: ANNO; above, cross; in r. field, date: 4; below, A; in exergue: NIKO	c. 670–685	Scythopolis	Amitai-Preiss, Berman and Qedar 1994–1999:141, No. A1	80526
22	1689	328	2.65	19		Three imperial figures stg. facing	M in l. field: ΤΗΒΕΡΙΑΔΟ; in r. field: طبرية	Same	Tabariya	Walker 1956:15, Nos. 43, 44	80546
23*	1057A	303	2.51	23	↓	Bust facing. In l. and r. fields, respectively: K/A/O/OIN In exergue: بجمص	m in l. and r. fields: E/M/I/C/ H/C in exergue: طيب	Same	Hims (Emesa)	Walker 1956:20, Nos. 57–62 Broken	80521
24	1675	502	2.54	16		Obliterated	Post-Reform Al-Walid I (AH 86–96/705–714 CE)–fals Effaced	AH 91 = 709 CE	Tabariya	Cf. <i>SNAT</i> 1993:32, Nos. 321–323	80554

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket No.	Locus No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	IAA No.
							Fals at 16 qirat				
25	1720	361	4.52	18		In field: لا اله الا الله وحده Marginal legend: [امر عبد الله الوليد امير المؤمنين بالوفا محمد رسول الله Marginal legend illegible	In field lion couchant to L, below: محمد رسول الله Marginal legend illegible	Undated	Tabariya	Cf. <i>SNAT</i> 1993:32, Nos. 325–329	80548
26*	1448	312	4.67	19×21		Same, center obliterated	Center obliterated. Marginal legend: margin: [وزن الفلوس الدين] ضرب بطبرية [...]	Same	Same	Cf. <i>SNAT</i> 1993:32, No. 330 Overstruck on Byzantine half- <i>foliis</i>	80536
							Fals at 20 qirat				
27	1470	312	3.98	16×18		Center: لا اله الا الله وحده Marginal legend: [وزن الفلوس] الذي ضرب بطبرية عشرين قيراط [مما امر بضرِب الفلوس بطبرية عبد الله الوليد]	Center: محمد رسول الله To r. palm branch. Marginal legend: [مما امر بضرِب الفلوس بطبرية عبد الله الوليد]	Undated	Tabariya	Cf. <i>SNAT</i> 1993:32, Nos. 313–319	80538
							Anonymous, Eighth Century CE–fals				
28	1544	620	1.89	14		In the field: لا اله الا الله وحده	Center: ضرب هذا الفلوس بدمشق	Undated	Dimashq	Cf. Walker 1956:251, Nos. 829–832	80557
29	1549	325	2.22	18		Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	80545
30	1147	206	1.55	15		Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	80516
31	1505	344	4.87	22		Center: لا اله الا الله وحده	Center: محمد رسول الله Marginal legend obliterated	Same	Same	Cf. Walker 1956:253, No. 838	80547

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket No.	Locus No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	IAA No.
32	1669	502	4.60	21		Within triple circle: لا اله الا الله وحده	In the field: ضرب هذا الفس ايدمشق Above star, marginal legend: بسم الله ربي الله محمد [...]	Same	Same	Cf. Walker 1956:251, Nos. 829-830	80551
33	1648	501	3.85	17 × 20		Center: لا اله الا الله وحده لا شريك له Marginal legend: محمد رسول الله ارسله ايناهاى ودين الحق	Center: الله احد الله الصمد لم يلد لم يولد Marginal legend: بسم الله ضرب هذا [...]	AH. 116 = 734/5 CE	No mint	Cf. Walker 1956:293, Nos. 854-859	80550
34	1061A	205	4.41	16		In field: لا اله الا الله وحده	In center a pomegranate, around: محمد رسول الله	Undated	Same	Cf. Walker 1956:203, No. 595	80514
35	1010	302	2.62	14		Obliterated	In center uncertain symbol with outline like a chalice, marginal legend as above	Same	Same	Cf. Walker 1956:203, No. 596	80520
36	1541	620	2.40	16		In field: لا اله الا الله وحده	Scorpion within circle. Marginal legend as above	Same	Same	Cf. Walker 1956:204, No. 598	80556
37	1285	203	3.97	20		In center a plant stalk. Marginal legend: لا اله الا الله وحده	In center a plant stalk. Marginal legend: محمد رسول الله	Same	Same	Cf. Walker 1956:206, No. 606	80512
38	1286	203	2.75	16		Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	80513
39	1451	312	2.03	15		In field: لا اله الا الله وحده	In center crescent. Marginal legend as above.	Same	Same	Cf. <i>SNAT</i> 1993:46, Nos. 571, 572	80537
40	1104	305	1.33	18		In field lion couchant to l. Marginal legend: لا اله الا الله وحده	Within double circles: محمد رسول الله	Same	Same	Cf. <i>SNAT</i> 1993:34, No. 369	80525

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket No.	Locus No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	IAA No.
41	1670	502	3.68	12		In field: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْوَحْدُ*	In field, as above	Same	Same		80552
42	1548A	325	3.58	16		In the field: لا اله الا الله وحده Marginal legend illegible	In the field: محمد رسول الله Marginal legend: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ [...]	Same	Same		80544
43	1671	502	2.94	20		Same	Obliterated	Same	Same	Broken	80553
44	1519	620	1.28	12		Same	Same	Same	Same	Fragment	80555
45	1442	323	4.06	15		Obliterated	Obliterated	Same	Same		80542
						*ABBASIDS Anonymous-fals					
46	6323	320	4.28	18		Center: لا اله الا الله وحده الا شريك له Marginal legend obliterated	Center: محمد رسول الله Marginal legend: [...]	9th c.	Mint effaced		80540
47	1306	107	1.35	16		Same	Same	Same	Same		80511
48	61440	322	0.67	11		Obliterated	Same	Same	Same		80541
49	1522	325	0.56	12		Same	Obliterated	Same	Same		80543
50	1069	303	1.30	16		Same	Same	Same	Same		80522
51	1201	107	1.58	16		Same	Same	Same	Same		80509
52	1308	107	1.45	15		Same	Same	Same	Same		80510

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