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The Coins from the 'Sleepy Spring' at Safed (Ẓefat)

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Nine copper coins, eight of which were identified (see Catalogue), were found in the excavation of the Mamlūk–Ottoman-period building at Safed that underwent three phases of reconstruction (Phases I–III; see Barbe, this volume).[1] The earliest specimen is a residual copper *fals* from the second reign of Faraj (1406–1412 CE; Cat. No. 1) minted in Tripoli, originating in the backfill covering Ottoman-period cist graves (see Barbé, this volume). It is particularly important as it reads the sultan's name, which is missing on the specimens mentioned in Balog's (1964) catalogue of Mamlūk-period coinage.

1. B10039-1, L1021, IAA 112066.
Al-Naṣir Naṣir al-Din Abu Al-Sa'adat Faraj, second reign, Tripoli, 1406–1412 CE.
Obv.: Marginal legend: […] فرج […]. Six-petalled rose.
Rev.: Lion passant to left, long tail curled back.
Æ *fals*, 1.89 g, 18 mm.
Cf. Balog 1964:293, No. 664.

The remaining specimens date to the late Ottoman period (second half of the nineteenth–twentieth centuries CE). These coins were found in fills postdating the destruction deposit of the Phase II building and may belong to the Phase III building. These fills also contained late Ottoman-period ceramics, clay tobacco pipes and porcelain vessels imported from Europe. Of particular importance are three coins that constrain the date of the Phase III restoration of the building, showing that it did not begin before 1878 (Cat. Nos. 3, 5, 6; see Barbé, this volume).

[1] The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratory, under the direction of Lena Kuperschmidt, and photographed by Clara Amit, both of the IAA.

The latest coin is a piece known as 'Two Mils', containing up to 97% copper, issued during the British Mandate of Palestine in 1942. It was also found in one of the fills of the Phase III building.

CATALOGUE

No.	Basket	Locus	Ruler	Date	Mint	Reference
1	10039-1	1021	Al-Naṣir Naṣir al-Din Abu al-Sa'adat Faraj	1406–1412 CE	Tripoli	Balog 1964:293, No. 664
2	10025-2	1015	Abdul Aziz	1282 AH/1865 CE	Misr	Pere 1968: No. 954
3	10034-1	1019	Same	1277–1293 AH/ 1861–1876 CE	Same	Same
4	10030-1	1018	Abdul Ḥamid II	1295 AH/1878 CE	Qostantineyeh	Pere 1968: No. 996
5	10034-2	1019	Same	1295 AH/1878 CE	Same	Same
6	10034-3	1019	Same	1296 AH/1878 CE	Same	Same
7	10029-1	1018	Mehmed V	1331 AH/1913 CE	Same	Pere 1968: No. 1063
8	10025-1	1015	British Mandate of Palestine	1942 CE	Palestine	Berlin 2001: No. 36

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