

## THE COINS FROM KHIRBAT EL-THAHIRIYA

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Twenty-six bronze and copper coins were recovered from a large building (a farmhouse or monastery) and an adjacent olive press at Khirbat el-Thahiriya, dating to the Byzantine and Abbasid periods (see Kogan-Zehavi and Hadad, this volume). Twenty-two of the coins were identified.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest datable coin is an isolated stray find of a bronze Hasmonean *pruṭah*, minted by Alexander Jannaeus (104–76 BCE), which was found in the floor make-up of a room (L456) in the building. The majority of the coins span

a relatively short period of time, beginning in the fifth–sixth centuries CE and ending in the mid-eighth century CE. A *fals* of the Abbasid governor in Egypt, 'Abd al-Malik b. Yazid (751–754 CE), is the latest coin in the assemblage. No coins date later than this coin, except for an isolated copper of the Mamluk ruler Al-Zāhir Barqūq Sayf al-Dīn (784–801 AH/1381–1399 CE), which was found to the south of the structure. Most of the coins (Nos. 5–21) are types that circulated after the Islamic conquest of the region in the 630s.



Fig. 1. The coins.

CATALOGUE<sup>i</sup>

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References	IAA No.
<b>Hasmonean Alexander Jannaeus (104–76 BCE)—<i>Pritah</i></b>											
1	4707	456	0.90	11		[BAΣΙΑΕΩΣ ΑΝΔΡΟΥ] Anchor	Star		Jerusalem	TJC 2:210, Type L7-14	79809
<b>Fourth–Fifth Centuries CE</b>											
2	1227	166	0.90	8		Bust r.	Cross				79795
3	3214	338	4.29	15	↓	Illegible	<b>I+B</b> In ex.: A&EX		Alexandria	Cf. MIBE:152, No. 165	79800
4	3307	367	4.24	19	↙	Imperial bust facing, holding cross in r. hand	<b>K</b> to l.: A/N/N/O		Alexandria	Cf. DOC 1:311– 315, Nos. 46a–63	79803
<b>Maurice (582–602 CE)—<i>Half Follis</i></b>											
5	3527	394	4.47	20	↓	[ENTYTO NI]KA Imperial figure stg. facing, holding long cross in r. hand, globe crucis in l. hand	<b>m</b> To r.: [Ν]ΕΙ[Ο]Σ	641–648	Constantinople	Cf. DOC 2:2:443, No. 59	79815
6	4625	426	4.47	20	↓	Imperial figure stg. facing	<b>m</b> Above, cross	Same		Cf. DOC 2:2:443, No. 59	79808
7	3119	392	3.37	24	↘	Imperial figure stg. facing, holding long cross in r. hand, globe crucis in l. hand	<b>m</b> To r.: ΝΕΙ[Ο]Σ	Same	Constantinople	Cf. DOC 2:2:448, No. 65	79811
8	3354	384	2.56	20	↓	Imperial figure stg. facing	<b>M</b> Above, cross; to l.: ΑΝΑ; to r.: [Ν]ΕΙ[Ο]Σ, below: ΙΙΙΙ	644–648	Constantinople	Cf. DOC 2:2:448, Nos. 63–68	79804
9	3104	319	7.11	17	↙	Imperial figure stg. facing, holding long cross in r. hand, globe crucis in l. hand	<b>I+B</b> In ex.: A&EX	641/2; 645/6	Alexandria	Cf. DOC 2:2:467, No. 105.1	79797
<b>Byzantine—<i>cut Follis</i></b>											
10	3120	Surface	2.01	20		Illegible	<b>M</b>				79812

<sup>i</sup> The coins are arranged chronologically, according to coin types. Coins bearing an asterisk are illustrated in Fig. 1.

## CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References	IAA No.
<b>Byzantine–Arab—<i>Fals</i></b>										
11*	3522	391	2.86	18 × 20 ↘	Standing caliph facing, wearing a long robe and kafiyah, r. hand placed on sword. On both sides: محمد رسول الله / رسول الله	On both sides: إلٰهٰ إلٰهٰ وَحْدَهُ يٰسٰفٰطٰنٰ	691–697	Iliya-Filastin	Cf. Walker 1956:22, No. 73 SICA 1: Nos. 730, 731	79807
<b>Umayyad, Post-Reform – Anonymous—<i>Fals</i></b>										
12	1021	104	1.78	14	Within circle, palm branch In margin: لا إله إلا الله وحدهُ يٰسٰفٰطٰنٰ	Within circle: crescent and dot (star?) In margin: صَرِبْ هَا إِلٰهٰ مَالَهُ إِلٰهٰ قَارُونَ	c. AH 120 = 737 CE	Ramlah	Ilisch 1993:14, Nos. 65–70	79794
13	4724	472	1.06	14	Within circle, palm branch	Within circle: crescent and dot (star?)	Same	Ramlah	Same	79810
14	3441	384	2.28	21 × 23	Within double circle with striations: إِلٰهٰ لَا يَكُوْنُ بِهِ شَهِيدٌ	Within circle: محمد رسول الله	Ramlah(?)	Same	79805	
15*	3121	330	2.63	22	Within triple circle of dots: وَحْدَهُ لَا يَكُوْنُ بِهِ شَهِيدٌ	Central inscription: محمد رسول الله In margin: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ قَرِبَهُ دَمْشَقُ	Dimashq	Cf. Walker 1956:252, No. 836	79813	
16	3521	391	2.34	12 × 18	[ لا إله إلا الله وحدهُ يٰسٰفٰطٰنٰ ]	[ لا إله إلا الله وحدهُ يٰسٰفٰطٰنٰ ]	Six-pointed star within circle In margin: محمد رسول الله		79806	
17	3198	335	1.87	13	[ بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ ]	[ لا إله إلا الله وحدهُ يٰسٰفٰطٰنٰ ]		Miles 1958:454, No. 2	79801	
18	3356	362	2.40	17 × 18	Within circle: crescent In margin: [ بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ ] هَذَا إِلٰهٰ صَرِبْ	Illegible			79802	
19	3140	326	2.00	16	In center: معو	Illegible			79798	

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References	IAA No.
20	3008	300	3.00	16×19		Illegible	Illegible				79796
<b>Abbasid</b>											
<b>‘Abd al-Malik b. Yazid</b> <b>(AH 133–137 / 751–754 CE) – Fals</b>											
21	3166	326	5.46	16×18		بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ	مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ	751		Miles 1958:481, No. 9	79799
<b>Mamluk</b>											
<b>Al-Zāhir Barqūq Sayf al-Dīn</b> <b>(AH 784–801 / 1381–1399 CE) – Fals</b>											
22	3121	330	2.84	22×20		الظاهر بالملك	Illegible				79814

## NOTE

<sup>1</sup> The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratories under the direction of Lena Kuperschmidt, and photographed by Clara Amit.

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