'Atiqot 50, 2005

KHAN GESHER: THE COINS

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Analysis of the coins found in the excavations points to two main periods of occupation: the Mamluk and Late Ottoman periods. All the coins are bronze. Unless otherwise mentioned, the coins are arranged chronologically, according to coin types (see Catalogue, below).

The Mamluk Period

One-third of the 62 coins assigned to this period was definitely identified. The rest are in a very poor state of preservation; one-half of them can be assigned to the fourteenth century and the other half to the fifteenth century. Due to the absence of earlier coins (Nos. 1–5 are apparently irrelevant to this study) it seems that this period began in the second half of the fourteenth century (No. 6). The issue dates of coins Nos. 5–27 are almost consistent and thus point to a very intense period that lasted about 60 years until the beginning of the fifteenth century (No. 27). As is evident from a late, single coin of Sultan Jaqmaq (1438–1452), it seems that activity at the khan declined significantly sometime in the second half of the fifteenth century, followed by an occupational gap. The century following the Ottoman conquest, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, is not represented in the numismatic evidence.

The Late Ottoman Period

The renewed activity in the khan in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries CE is marked by only a few coins (Nos. 73–74, and Nos. 75–76, respectively). It seems that in the nineteenth century the khan was more intensively occupied, when, like in the previous period, the dates of issue are consistent to the end of the Ottoman rule (Nos. 77–85), through the First World War and the British conquest (No. 93). Two modern German coins from 1924 and 1930 (Nos. 99, 100), and one American coin from 1914 (No. 92), can be associated with the first settlers of Kibbutz Gesher.

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CATALOGUE

Cat. No.	Loc. No.	Bas. No.	Weight (g)	Size (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint and Denom.	Ref. and Notes	IAA No.
					Byzantine **Justinian I (527-565)**					
1	138	1488	12.08	27	[DN I] VSTINIANVS PP AVG Helmeted and cuir. bust facing, Holding gl. Cr. and shield; to r., cross	Large M between A/N/N/O and numerals (oblit.) representing the regnal years, cross above, beneath officina letter Γ; in ex. CON		Constantinople *Follis*	Cf. *DOC* I:37–61 pierced and broken, probably reused	84672
					'Abbasids **Unidentified**					
2	138	1440	1.13	18	Obliterate	Obliterate	9th c.	*Fals*		84673
3	123	1237	0.44	18	Same	Same	9th c.	*Fals*	Half of a coin	84674
					Ayyubids **Al-'Adil Sayf al-Din Abu Bakr Muhammad I (1199–1218)**					
4	537	3053	1.82	20	Obliterate	احمد/ الامام /الناصر		Al-Ruha *Fals*	Cf. Balog 1980:143, 353	84675
					The Kingdom of Cyprus **Henry II, 1st reign (1285-1324)**					
5	130	1227	0.60	16	Cross, with dots in the angles of cross	lion to l.		Cyprus *Denier*	Metcalf 1983: No. 545	84676
					Mamluks **Al-Nasir Nasir al-Din Muhammad, 3rd reign (1310–1341)**					
6	509	3009	2.21	19	[...] السلطان الملك الناصر [...]	الله/ وما النصر الامن عند /لا الله [...]	AH 735 (=1333)	Dimashq *Fals*	Balog 1964:150, 222	84677
7	355	3058	1.60	17	Obliterate	Five-petaled rosette		Same, worn	Balog 1964:162, 261	84678
					Al-Nasir Nasir al-Din Hasan, 1st reign (1347–1351)					
8	119	1077	3.02	22	بن محمد /الملك الناصر حسن / ضرب دمشق سنة	Center: تسع واربعين	AH 749 (=1348)	Dimashq *Fals*	Balog 1964:187, 327	84679
					Al-Mansur Salah al-Din Muhammad (1361–1363)					
9	518	3022	2.46	29	In segments: لسلطان/ الملك /المنصور In center: محمد	In segments: / اتنين وستين / وسبعماية بدمشق سنة In center: ضرب	AH 762 (=1361)	Dimashq *Fals*	Balog 1964:204, 388	84680

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Loc. No.	Bas. No.	Weight (g)	Size (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint and Denom.	Ref. and Notes	IAA No.
10	138	1576	3.29	22×28	[الملك]المنصور/ صلاح الدنيا والدين/ [محمد] بن الملك [المظفر حاجي بن الملك]الناصر	بالقاهرة /سنة /اربع [...] / وسبعماية ضرب	AH 764 (=1363)	Al-Qahirah *Fals*	Balog 1964:204, 387	84681
					Al- Ashraf Nasir al-Din Sha'ban II (1363–1377)					
11	518	3022	2.18	18	الملك الاشرف	ضرب / وسبعين/ سنة احد [...]	AH 771 (=1369)	Dimashq *Fals*	Balog 1964:220, 455	84682
12	514	3015	2.90	21	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	84683
13	138	1368	2.46	17	Same	ضرب / وسبعماية اتنين /سبعين	AH 772 (=1370)	Dimashq *Fals*	Balog 1964:220, 457	84684
14	148	1590	2.08	22	In center: حسن/ بن Legend around: لسلطان الملك الاشرف شعبان	Within concave-sided linear octolobe with floweret on edges: ضرب / مشق/ بد		Dimashq *Fals*	Balog 1964:221, 458	84685
15	530	3048	2.56	16	Same	Same		Same	Same	84686
16	530	3039	2.31	20	ضرب طر /الملك الاشرف/ ا بلس	Lion passant to l., with tail curled back		Tarablus *Fals*	Balog 1964:229, 480 (pierced)	84687
17	500	3000	4.11	23	Obliterate	Obliterate		Iskandariyah *Fals*	Cf. Balog 1964:219, 449–451	84688
					Al-Mansur 'Ala al-Din 'Ali (1377–1381)					
18	355	3058	1.55	15	Within circle: علي	Within circle: Fleur-de-lis		Dimashq *Fals*	Cf. Balog 1964:34, 501	84689
19	138	1320	1.85	20	الملك /المنصور	طرابلس		Tarablus *Fals*	Balog 1964:237, 508	84690
					Al-Salih Salah al-Din Hajji II, 1st Reign (1381–1382)					
20	542	3065	1.68	17	Within circle: حاجي Legend: [السلطان الملك]الصالح [صلاح الدين]	Within circle, Fleur-de-lis Legend around oblit.		Dimashq *Fals*	Cf. Balog 1964:243, 524	84691
					Al-Zahir Sayf al-Din Barquq, 1st reign (1382–1389)					
21	513	3014	4.20	21×25	[السلطان الملك / الظاهر سيف الدنيا و] / برقوق الدين ابو سعيد / عز نصره	[ضرب بالقهرة / سنة] ست/ وثمانين / وسبعماية	AH 786 (=1384)	Al-Qahirah *Fals*	Balog 1964:256, 555	84692

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Loc. No.	Bas. No.	Weight (g)	Size (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint and Denom.	Ref. and Notes	IAA No.
22	535	3046	1.97	20	السلطان الملك /الظاهر الدنيا والدين ابو سعيد برقوق […]	[…] / لا اله الا الله/ محمد رسول الله / ارسله بالهدئ ودين /[…] ست […]	AH 786 (=1384)	Halab *Fals*	Cf. Balog 1964:255 552. (pierced)	84693
23	518	3022	2.58	18	Same	Within dotted circle: برقوق Legend around oblit.	AH 790 (=1388)	Dimashq *Fals*	Balog 1964:259, 562	84694
					Al-Salih Salah al-Din Hajji II, 2nd reign (1389–1390)					
24	533	3061	2.40	19	[…]/لسلطان الملك/[…]	Hexagram, legend oblit.	AH 791 (=1389)	Dimashq *Fals*	Cf. Balog 1964: 246, 532	84695
					Al-Zahir Sayf al-Din Barquq, 2nd reign (1390–1399)					
25	355	3058	1.63	16	الملك /الظاهر	ضرب/ بحماة		Hamah *Fals*	Balog 1964:271, 601	84696
26	140	1321	1.73	17	ضرب طر /الملك الظاهر/ ابلس	Center: Fleur-de-Lis	Same	Tarablus *Fals*	Balog 1964:271, 603	84697
					Al-Zahir Abu Sa'id Jaqmaq (1438–1452)					
27	Surf.	1092	2.30	16	عز /الملك الظاهر/ نصره	Lozenge with concave sides (buqjah), In segments, illeg. legend	AH 85[..] (=1446–1454)	Tarablus *Fals*	Balog 1964:327, 753	84698
					Mamluks Unidentified					
28	128	1124	1.02	17	Obliterate	Obliterate	14th c.	*Fals*		84699
29	128	1172	1.52	14	Same	Same	Same	Same		84700
30	128	1594	1.67	17	Same	Same	Same	Same		84701
31	138	1490	0.98	16×19	Same	Same	Same	Same		84702
32	143	1420	1.05	8×10	Same	Same	Same	Fraction of *Dirham*	Silver	84703
33	511	3011	1.10	18	Within hexagram: ضرب / بد مشق	Hexagram	14th c.	Dimashq *Fals*		84704
34	513	3020	2.47	18	Obliterate	Same	Same	*Fals*		84705
35	514	3015	1.76	20	Same	Same	Same	Same		84706

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Loc. No.	Bas. No.	Weight (g)	Size (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint and Denom.	Ref. and Notes	IAA No.
36	522	3037	1.40	18	Same	Same	Same	Same		84707
37	526	3033	2.68	19	Same	Same	Same	Same		84708
38	528	3036	0.84	18	Same	Same	Same	Same	Broken	84709
39	533	3043	1.76	29	لسلطان الملك	Same	Same	Same		84710
40	533	3043	1.30	18	Obliterate	Same	Same	Same		84711
41	533	3063	1.18	20	Same	Same	Same	Same	Broken	84712
42	533	3063	0.33	13	Same	Same	Same	Same	Half a coin	84713
43	534	3044	1.58	20	Same	Same	Same	Same	Pierced	84714
44	534	3044	1.50	17	Same	Same	Same	Same		84715
45	535	3072	0.91	15	Same	Same	Same	Same		84716
46	536	3057	2.07	17	Same	Same	Same	Same		84717
47	537	3050	1.50	18	Hexagram	Hexagram	Same	Same	Worn	84718
48	537	3050	2.34	18	Obliterate	Obliterate	Same	*Dirham*	Silver plated	84719
49	355	3058	1.68	14	Same	Same	Same	*Fals*		84720
50	104	1018	2.56	18	Same	Same	15th c.	Same		84721
51	126	1154	1.88	16	Same	Same	Same	Same		84722
52	127	1122	3.76	18	لسلطان [...] / [...]	Same	Same	Same		84723
53	132	1160	2.51	16×20	Obliterate	Obliterate	15th c.	*Fals*		84724
54	134	1225	2.44	16×24	Same	Same	Same	Same		84725
55	134	1246	1.41	16	Same	Same	Same	Same		84726
56	138	1512	3.97	20	Same	Same	Same	Same		84727
57	138	1522	2.02	17×20	Same	Same	Same	Same		84728
58	138	1543	3.45	18	Same	Same	Same	Same		84729
59	138	1573	1.34	17	Same	Same	Same	Same		84730
60	138	1574	2.53	14	Same	Same	Same	*Dirham*	Silver	84731

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Loc. No.	Bas. No.	Weight (g)	Size (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint and Denom.	Ref. and Notes	IAA No.
61	509	3021	3.58	23	Same	Same	Same	*fals*		84732
62	522	3037a	2.66	14×18	Same	Same	Same	Same		84733
63	528	3036	1.65	14	Same	Same	Same	Same		84734
64	530	3039	3.70	20×24	Same	Same	Same	Same		84736
65	533	3043	1.96	17	Same	Same	Same	Same		84737
66	533	3058	3.22	18	Same	Same	Same	Same		84738
67	533	3063	4.03	20	Same	Same	Same	Same		84739
68	534	3054	1.35	13×15	Same	Same	Same	Same		84740
69	540	3062	3.77	19	Same	Same	Same	Same		84741
70	125	1100	1.00		Same	Same	Same	Same	Fragments	84742
					Unidentified					
71	512	3012	0.75	14	Obliterate	Within circle, six-petaled rosette	16th c.	*Fals*		84743
					Venice Unidentified					
72	513	3014	1.30	21	Obliterate	Obliterate	16th(?) c.	*Grosso*	Worn	84744
					Ottomans Murad IV (1623–1640)					
73	138	1433	0.68	16	عز نصره / ضرب مصر/ سنة [١٠٣٢]	سلطان / مراد بن /احمد خان	AH 1032 (=1623)	*Misr Medin*	Pere 1968:159, 421 (broken)	84745
					Unidentified					
74	138	1544	0.70	15	Obliterate	Arabesque ornament	17th c.	*Misr Mangir*	Cf. Valentine 1911:31, 13–15.	84746
					Selim III (1789–1807)					
75	128	1163	0.24	15	Tughra	ضرب /في مصر /سنة /١٢٠٣	AH 1203 (=1789)	*Misr Para*	Cf. Pere 1968:232, 717. (silver, pierced)	
76	133	1174	0.23	20	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Loc. No.	Bas. No.	Weight (g)	Size (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint and Denom.	Ref. and Notes	IAA No.
					Mahmud II ‘Adli (1808–1839)					
77	138	1546	0.11	12	Tughra	١٨ / ضرب/ في/ مصر/ [١٢٢٣]	AH 1241 (=1825)	*Misr Akche’*	Pere 1968:252, 845 (silver)	
78	115	1051	0.90	16	Tughra عدلي Legend in cartouches: سلطان/سلطين/ زمان	Legend: ٢١/ضرب في/ قسطنطينية / ١٢٢٣ Legend in Cartouches: خازئ/محمود / خان	AH 1244 (=1828)	*Qustantiniyeh Yarim*	Pere 1968:244, 747 (gold)	
79					Tughra	Within wreath: ٢٩ / ضرب/ في/ مصر/ ١٢٢٣	AH 1252 (=1836)	*Misr 5 Para*	Valentine 1911:32, 22	
					‘Abd-al-Majid I (1839–1861)					
80	537	3050	6.92	20	Tughra	٣ / ضرب/ في/ مصر/ ١٢٥٥	AH 1258 (=1843)	*Misr 5 Para*	Pere 1968:261, 909	
81	116	1090	4.10	22	Tughra, year 16	Center 5 (para) Legend: عز نصره ضرب في قسطنطينية سنة ١٢٥٥	AH.1271 (=1854)	*Qustantiniyeh 5 Para*	Pere 1968:261, 906	
82	139	1384	9.70	32	Tughra, year 19	Center 20 (para) Same legend	AH 1274 (=1857)	*Qustantiniyeh 20 Para*	Pere 1968:261, 904	
83	W	1214	21.38	37	Tughra, year 20	Center 40 (para) Same legend	AH 1275 (=1858)	*Qustantiniyeh 40 Para*	Pere 1968:261, 902	
					‘Abd-al-Hamid II (1876–1909)					
84	138	1486	3.84	21	Tughra, year 2	Center: 5 (five tenth of Krush) عز نصره ضرب في مصرعشر القرش سنة ١٢٩٣	AH 1295 (=1878)	*Misr 20 Para*	Pere 1968:281, 1003 CuNi	
					Muhammad V *Rashad* (1909–1918)					
85	138	1545			Tughra, year 6	Center: 5 (Para)	AH 1333 (=1914)	*Qustantiniyeh 5 Para*	Pere 1968:291, 1063 CuNi	
86	101	1004			Same	Same		Same	Same	

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Loc. No.	Bas. No.	Weight (g)	Size (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint and Denom.	Ref. and Notes	IAA No.
					Ottomans **Unidentified**					
87	139	1383	0.16		Tughra	ضرب/ في/ مصر [...]	18th c.	*Misr* *Para*	Silver, Fragments	
88	140	1322			Same	Obliterate	Same	Same	Same	
89	533	3043	0.70	17	Obliterate	Same	Same		Half a coin	
90	128	1198	12.68	36	Obliterate	Obliterate	19th c		Worn	
91	138	1559			Ornament	Ornament	Same		Made for decorative use, pierced	
					Egypt **Husayn Kamil (1914–1917)** ***Under British Protectorate***					
92	138	1500			1917/ ١٣٣٥ / كامل /سلطان مصر / حسين	Five Millimes/حمس مليمات	1917	*5 Milliemes*	Yeoman 1979: No. 37	
					Palestine ***Under British Mandate***					
93	Surf.	1094					1927	5 Mils		
94	104	1052					Same	Same		
95	104	1045					Same	50 Mils	Silver	
96	Surf.	1003					1942	1 Mil		
97	138	1367					1943	Same		
					United States of America ***Lincoln Cent, Regular issue***					
98	138	1511					1914	*One Cent*		
					Germany ***The Weimar Republic***					
99	115	1051					1924	*(F) Stuttgart* *2* *Rentenpfennig*	Yeoman 1979: No. 33	
100	101	1005					1930	*(A) Berlin* *1 Reichpfennig*	Yeoman 1979: No. 37	