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Coin Hoard from a Fourth-Century CE Shipwreck off the Carmel Coast

Donald T. Ariel

More than 240 coins were found in the vicinity of the Roman assemblage located off the southern municipal beach of Haifa (see Galili, Rosen, and Sharvit, this volume). The coins were scattered in an area of c. 50 × 50 m, some 10–30 m east of the Roman assemblage.[1] Meshorer, who first examined the coins retrieved from the site, noticed that the majority appeared to be a contemporaneous assemblage dating from Augustus (the earliest coin dates to 20 BCE–14 CE; see Meshorer, this volume: No. 84) to Alexander Severus (222–235 CE). He added to this assemblage some less well-dated coins (bronze, No. 159; and lead, Nos. 160–162) and analyzed the resulting group of 162 coins as if they all indeed belonged to one hoard.

Almost all of the remainder of the coins are dated to a quite restricted period within the fourth century CE, leaving little doubt that they originally belonged to one hoard.[2] The earliest coin dates to 308–309 CE (naming Maximian Herculius; No. 70), while most of the coins date to the period between 313 and 318 CE. The latest coin was minted in 318 CE (naming Crispus; No. 21). Seventy-five coins may be associated with this hoard (Table 1). The latest coin in the assemblage published by Meshorer may be a century earlier than the latest coin in this hoard.

In addition to the restricted period—no more than a decade—for the composition of the hoard, the coins are all similar in that they are of the same *follis* denomination, lacking the bimetallic character of the earlier group. As the hoard may not be complete, little more can be said about its composition. It should be stressed, however, that the distribution of mints in the hoard reflects the circulation of contemporary coins on land. Although over 85% of the hoard derives from western mints—particularly Rome (32 coins, or 43%)—this distribution may be expected for the first quarter of the fourth century CE in the

Table 1. Conspectus of Fourth-Century CE Hoard

Ruler \ Mint	London	Lyons	Trier	Arles	Rome	Ostia	Ticinum	Aquileia	Heraclea	Nicomedia	Antioch	Alexandria	Total
Maximian Herculius (286–310 CE)									1				1
Maxentius (306–312 CE)						1							1
Constantine I (307–337 CE)	2	4	3	7	25	2	9						52
Licinius I (308–324 CE)					3		1	1		2		1	8
Maximinus II (309–313 CE)			1		1					1	2		5
Constantine II (317–340 CE)								1					1
Crispus (317–326 CE)				1	1								2
Licinius II (317–324 CE)				3	1			1					5
Total	*2*	*4*	*4*	*11*	*31*	*3*	*10*	*3*	*1*	*3*	*2*	*1*	*75*

Fig. 1.

southern Levant. Two unpublished hoards from land excavations in the region—at Sepphoris and Qaẓrin—have the same date for their latest coins.[3] The mint distribution is similar in both.

While this hoard conforms to the currency inland, there are other underwater hoards that have been found to not contain numismatic material known to circulate on the shore. Examples include a late second-century BCE hoard from Ashqelon (Gitler and Kahanov 2001) and a first-century BCE Ptolemaic silver hoard (Galili and Sharvit 1999:17*; Ariel and Sokolov 2003). There are also coins within the assemblage published by Meshorer that did not circulate locally (see Meshorer, this volume: Nos. 78–81). The ships from which these hoards derived may have received the coins, or intended them, for use in more distant locales.

CATALOGUE

All the coins are copper *folles*. The catalogue below is organized by mints with the obverse on the left and the reverse on the right, and dates within those mints. For diameter and weight, the minimum and maximum measurements of each subtype is given. The usual axis is ↑ or ↓. Photographs of the coins, whose number bears an asterisk, appear in the plates. A key to the legends and types, similar to *RIC* 6 and *RIC* 7, follows (Table 2).

CATALOGUE

Cat. No.	Weight (g)		Diam. (mm)		Reverse field-marks and exergue	References	IAA No.	Date (CE)
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.				
London 313–317 CE								
CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B5)						SOLI INVIC–TO COM[ITI] a		
1	1.90		20		S|F / PLN	*RIC* 7:98, No. 13	43464	313–314
2* [i]	4.14		21×23		T|F / PLN	Cf. *RIC* 7:97, No. 5	43448	313–317
Lyons 313–316 CE								
IMP CONSTANTINVS AVG (B3, B5)						SOLI INVIC–TO COM[ITI] a		
3	4.13		22		S|F / PLG	*RIC* 7:122, No. 1	92644	313–314
4	3.03		20		T|F / PLG	*RIC* 7:123, No. 17	92664	314–315
5*–6	2.60	3.77	18		TF|* / PLG	*RIC* 7:124, No. 32.	43447, 92651	315–316
Trier 310–316 CE								
IMP MAXIMINVS PF AVG (B5)						[G]ENIO POP ROM		
7	4.00		24		T|F / PTR	*RIC* 6:226, No. 844b	92665	310–313
IMP CONSTANTINVS AVG (B5)						SOLI INVIC–TO COMITI a		
8	5.30		23		T|F / PTR	*RIC* 7:168, No. 40.	43449	313–315

[i] In *RIC* 7, the letters in the field are not found with this obverse inscription.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Weight (g)		Diam. (mm)		Reverse field-marks and exergue	References	IAA No.	Date (CE)
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.				
CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B4)						SOLI INVIC–TO COMITI a		
9	3.93		22		T|F / PTR	Cf. *RIC* 7:168, No. 41	92661	313–315
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B4)						SOLI INV–I–CTO [COMITI] a		
10*	3.31		21		R|S / TRP	*RIC* 7:170, No. 70	92679	315–316
Arles 313–318 CE								
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B5)						SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI		
11*	3.33		21		/ A[R]P	Cf. *RIC* 7:235, No. 9	92636	313
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B3)						SOLI INV–I–CTO COMITI a		
12–13	2.44	3.97	19	21	T|F * / PARL	*RIC* 7:240, No. 79	92646, 92657	316
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B5)						SOLI INVI–CTO COMITI a		
14	2.98		19		M|F / QARL	*RIC* 7:241, No. 90	43462	316
IMP CONSTAN[TINVS PF AVG] (B4)						SOLI INV[–I–CTO COMITI] a		
15 [ii]	1.81		18		M|[F] / [ARL-]	Cf. *RIC* 7:242, No. 96.	92677	316
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B4)						SOLI INV–I–CTO COMITI a		
16 [ii]	2.67		20		R|S / [- - -]	Cf. *RIC* 7:244, No. 108	92653	316–317
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B4)						SOLI INV–I–CTO COMITI c		
17	2.78		19		R|S / PARL	*RIC* 7:244, No. 110	92680	316–317
VAL LICINIVS NOB CAES (B4)						IOVI CO–NSERVATORI d		
18	3.15		20		R|S / TARL	*RIC* 7:246, No. 126	92673	317
VAL LICINIVS NOB CAES (B4)						IOVI CONSERVATORI b		
19	2.83		20		R|[S] / TARL	*RIC* 7:246, No. 128	92666	317
VAL LICINIVS NOB CAES (B4)						IOVI CONSE–RVATORI c		
20	2.93		20		C|S / PARL	*RIC* 7:248, No. 142.	92654	317–318
CRISPVS NOB CAES (B4)						PRINCIPIA IV–VENTVTIS a		
21*	2.91		19		/ Q⊶A	*RIC* 7:250, No. 162	92676	318
Rome 312–318 CE								
IMP MAXIMINVS PF AVG (B4)						GENIO POP[VLI R]OMANI		
22*	4.23		19×21		/ RQ	*RIC* 6:387, No. 295b	43440	312–313

[ii] Identification of mint uncertain.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Weight (g)		Diam. (mm)		Reverse field-marks and exergue	References	IAA No.	Date (CE)
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.				
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B3)						SOLI INV–I–CTO COMITI a		
23–26	2.90	3.43	20	22	R|F / R*P	*RIC* 7:298, No. 18	43456, 92643, 92647–48	314
27*	2.6		21		R|F / R*S	*RIC* 7:298, No. 21	92670	314
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B4, B5)						SOLI INV–I–CTO COMITI a		
28–30	2.19	3.66	17	19	R|FX / _ / RP	*RIC* 7:299, No. 27	92660, 92672, 92667	314–315
31	3.12		22		R|F / X| / ṚT	*RIC* 7:299, No. 28	43450	314–315
[IMP] LICINIVS PF AVG (B5)						SOLI IN–VI–CTO [COMITI] a		
32	2.19		19×23		R|F / X| / [RT]	*RIC* 7:299, No. 30	43467	314–315
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B4, B5)						SOLI INVICTO COMITI (*various breaks*) a		
33	3.44		18		S|F / RS	*RIC* 7:299, No. 33	92650	315
34*	3.21		19		S|F / RQ	Cf. *RIC* 7:299, No. 33	92681	315–317
35	3.12		19		S|F / RQ	*RIC* 7:299, No. 34	43453	315
[IMP LI]CINIVS PF AVG						SOLI IN–VI–CTO COMITI a		
36	2.30		18		S|F / RS	*RIC* 7:299, Nos. 35, 36	92675	315
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B4)						SOLI IN–VI–CTO COMITI a		
37	3.61		20		*|˘ / R[S]	*RIC* 7:301, No. 45	92662	316
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B4)						SOLI IN–VI–CTO COM DN		
38	3.37		19		*|˘ / RP	*RIC* 7:302, No. 49	43452	316
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B4)						SOLI INVICTO COMITI (*various breaks*) a		
39–42*	2.63	3.41	18	23	___ / RP	*RIC* 7:303, No. 58	43454–55, 92655, 92669	316–317
43–46	2.68	3.96	18	20	A| / RT	*RIC* 7:307, No. 78.	43451, 43460, 92663, 92640	317
CRISPVS NOBIL CAES (B5)						PRINCIPIA IV–V–ENTVTIS b		
47	3.51		19		A| / RQ	*RIC* 7:308, No. 87	43466	317
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B3)						SOLI INV–I–CTO COMITI a		
48–49 [iii]	2.88	3.16	19	22	Q| / RP	*RIC* 7:309, No. 97	43457, 92674	317–318

[iii] Identification of No. 49 mint uncertain.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Weight (g)		Diam. (mm)		Reverse field-marks and exergue	References	IAA No.	Date (CE)
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.				
LICINIVS IVN NOB CAES (B4)						IOVI CONSE–RVATORI c		
50*	2.72		20		☾| RP	*RIC* 7:309, No. 101	92678	317–318
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B5)						SOLI INV–I–CTO COMITI a		
51–52 [iv]	4.25	4.46	18	19			43463, 92652	313–318
Ostia 309–313 CE								
IMP C MAXENTIVS PF AVG (B1)						AET–ERNITAS A–VG N		
53*	5.68		24		____ MOSTS	*RIC* 6:404, No. 35	43444	309–312
54–55	3.37	4.03	22	22	____ MOSTS	*RIC* 6:409, No. 83	43445–46	312–313
Ticinum 313–318 CE								
IMP LICINIVS PF AVG (B1)						SOLI INVI–Ç–TO COMITI a		
56	3.11		17		*| T[T]	*RIC* 7:361, No. 9	43470	313–314
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG (B3, B4, B5)						SOLI INVI–C–TO COMITI a		
57–59	2.77	3.82	18	20	*| PT•	*RIC* 7:361, Nos. 15–17	43461, 43469, 92671	314
60*	3.27		18		+|* [PT]	*RIC* 7:366, No. 43	92641	316
61–62	2.73	3.05	18	22	___ PT	*RIC* 7:370, Nos. 62–63	92638, 92645	317
63–65	3.27	3.95	18	19	P| PT	*RIC* 7:371, Nos. 67–68	43458–59, 92659	317–318
Aquileia 317 CE								
IMP LICINIVS PF AVG (B5)						IOVI CONSE–RVATORI c		
66	2.70		20		____ AQS	*RIC* 7:393, No. 7	43468	317
LICINIVS IVN NOB CAES (B4)						CONCOR–D–IA AVGGNN		
67*	2.68		18		____ AQS	*RIC* 7:394, No. 12	92642	317
CONSTANTINVS IVN NB C (B3)						CLARITAS–R–EIPVBLICAE		
68*	4.27		20		____ AQT	*RIC* 7:394, No. 17.	43465	317
Heraclea 308–309 CE								
IMP GAL VAL MAXIMIANVS PF AVG (B1)						GENIO IMP–E–RATORIS		
69*	5.36		25		____ •HTE•	*RIC* 6:535, No. 37a	92658	308–309

[iv] Identification of mint uncertain.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Weight (g)		Diam. (mm)		Reverse field-marks and exergue	References	IAA No.	Date (CE)
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.				
Nicomedia 310–324 CE								
IMP C GAL VAL MAXIMINVS PF AVG (B1)						GENIO AV–GVSTI CMH		
70	6.36		24		⎯⎯⎯⎯ SMNA	*RIC* 6:565, No. 66c	43441	310–311
IMP C VAL LICINIVS PF AVG (B1)						IOVI CONS–ERVATORI e		
71*	4.12		22		|B SMN	*RIC* 7:601, No. 13	43471	313–317
IMP C VAL LICIN LICINIVS PF AVG (G51)						IOVI CONSERVATORI f		
72 [v]	3.53		18		| X II ⋟ SM[- - -]	Cf. *RIC* 7:608, No. 49	92682	321–324
IMP C GAL VAL MAXIMINVS PF AVG (B1)						GENIO AV–GVSTI		
73	4.55		23		*|H ANT	*RIC* 6:643, No. 164b	43443	312
IMP C GAL VAL MAXIMINVS PF AVG (B1)						IOVI CONS–ERVATORI a		
74*	5.10		21		*|Δ ANT	*RIC* 6:643, No. 166b	43442	312
Alexandria 316–317 CE								
IMP C VAL LICIN LICINIVS PF AVG (B1)						IOVI CONSER–VATORI AVGG		
75*	3.22		20		K|R X |A ALE	*RIC* 7:701, No. 18	92637	316–317

[v] Identification of mint uncertain.

Table 2. Key to Legends and Types

Obverse Legends:	
Legend	*Ruler*
CONSTANTINVS IVN NB C	Constantine II (317–340 CE)
CONSTANTINVS PF AVG	Constantine I (307–337 CE)
CRISPVS NOB CAES	Crispus (317–326 CE)
CRISPVS NOBIL CAES	Crispus (317–326 CE)
IMP C CONSTANTINVS PF AVG	Constantine I (307–337 CE)
IMP C GAL VAL MAXIMINVS PF AVG	Maximinus II (309–313 CE)
IMP C MAXENTIVS PF AVG	Maxentius (306–312 CE)
IMP C VAL LICIN LICINIVS PF AVG	Licinius I (308–324 CE)
IMP C VAL LICINIVS PF AVG	Licinius I (308–324 CE)
IMP CONSTANTINVS AVG	Constantine I (307–337 CE)
IMP CONSTANTINVS PF AVG	Constantine I (307–337 CE)
IMP GAL VAL MAXIMIANVS PF AVG	Maximian Herculius (286–310 CE)

Table 2. (cont.)

IMP LICINIVS PF AVG	Licinius I (308–324 CE)
IMP MAXIMINVS PF AVG	Maximinus II (309–313 CE)
LICINIVS IVN NOB CAES	Licinius II (317–324 CE)
VAL LICINIVS NOB CAES	Licinius II (317–324 CE)
Obverse types	
Type	*Description*
B1	Head r., laureate
B3	Bust r., laureate, draped, cuirassed, seen from back
B4	Bust r., laureate, draped, cuirassed
B5	Bust r., laureate, cuirassed
G5l	Bust l., cuirassed, spear across r. shoulder, shield on l. arm
Reverse Legends and Types	
Legend	*Description*
AET–ERNITAS A–VG N	Castor and Pollux, each with star above cap, naked but for chlamys hanging from shoulders, stg. facing each other, each leaning on scepter with outer arm and holding bridled horse with inner arm
CLARITAS–R–EIPVBLICAE	Sol radiate advancing l., raising r. hand, whip in l. hand, chlamys flying
CONCOR–D–IA AVGGNN	Concordia draped stg. l., holding caduceus, cornucopias
GENIO IMP–E–RATORIS	Genius stg. l., modius on head, naked but for chlamys over l. shoulder, r. holding patera (from which liquor flows), l. cornucopias
GENIO AV–GVSTI	Genius stg. l., modius on head, naked but for chlamys over l. shoulder, holding head of Sol, l. cornucopias
GENIO AV–GVSTI CMH	Genius stg. l., modius on head, naked but for chlamys over l. shoulder, r. holding patera (from which liquor flows), l. cornucopias
GENIO POP ROM	Genius stg. l., head lowered, loins draped, r. holding patera, l. cornucopias
GENIO POPVLI ROMANI	Genius stg. l., modius on head, naked but for chlamys over l. shoulder, r. holding patera, l. cornucopias
IOVI CONS–ERVATORI a	Jupiter stg. l., cloak spread behind, r. holding Victoriola on globe, l. leaning on scepter
IOVI CONSERVATORI b	Jupiter running r., chlamys flowing, throwing thunderbolt
IOVI CONSE–RVATORI c	Jupiter stg. l., chlamys across l. shoulder, leaning on scepter, thunderbolt in r. hand
IOVI CO–NSERVATORI d	Jupiter stg. l., cloak spread behind, r. holding thunderbolt, l. leaning on scepter
IOVI CONS–ERVATORI e	Jupiter stg. l., chlamys across l. shoulder, leaning on scepter, Victory on globe in r. hand; eagle holding wreath to l
IOVI CONSERVATORI f	Jupiter stg. l., chlamys across l. shoulder, r. holding Victory on globe, l. leaning on eagle-tipped scepter; eagle with wreath to l. on ground; to r., captive
IOVI CONSER–VATORI AVGG	Jupiter stg. l., chlamys across l. shoulder, leaning on scepter, Victory on globe in r. hand; eagle holding wreath to l
PRINCIPIA IV–VENTVTIS a	Mars stg. l., in military dress, chlamys across l. shoulder, leaning on shield, holding vertical spear reversed
PRINCIPIA IV–V–ENTVTIS b	Prince helmeted, in military dress, advancing r., chlamys flying, spear pointing forward in r. hand, shield on l. arm
SOLI INVICTO COMITI (*various breaks*) a	Sol stg. l., chlamys over l. shoulder, globe in l. hand, r. hand raised
SOLI IN–VI–CTO COMITI b	Sol stg. l., chlamys hanging behind, globe in l. hand close to body, r. hand raised

SOLI INV–I–CTO COMITI c	Sol stg. r., looking l., chlamys over l. shoulder, globe in l. hand, r. hand raised
SOLI IN–VI–CTO COM DN	Sol stg. l., chlamys over l. shoulder, Victory on globe in l. hand, r. hand raised
SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI	Three standards surmounted by hand, eagle and wreath, respectively; middle standard with drapery

NOTES

[1] The coins were cleaned in the laboratories of the IAA by Ella Altmark and photographed in the IAA photography studio by Sandu Mendrea and Clara Amit. Catalogue Nos. 5 and 22 were photographed by Z. Radovan.

[2] The fourth-century CE coins were uncovered in two dives, and arrived as two separate groups to the IAA coin department. Gabriela Bijovsky registered one of these groups. Some coins were found in the same underwater context. There follows a list of those of the above-mentioned coins (N = 6), which were relatively close in date, but nevertheless rejected from this hoard:

IAA No.	Ruler	Mint	Date (CE)
43472	Constantius II	Alexandria	351–354
43473	Constantius II	Alexandria	351–361
92649	-	Alexandria	351–361
92656	-	-	4th c.
92668	-	-	395–408
92683	-	-	395–408

[3] Our thanks to E.M. Meyers and E. Netzer (Sepphoris; IAA 82044–82297; see Meyers, Netzer and Meyers 1988:92), and A. Killebrew (Qaẓrin; IAA 29804–30151) for permission to note these finds.

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