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# The Coins from Or 'Aqiva (North)

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Forty–six coins were found during the excavations at Or 'Aqiva (north) (Yannai, this volume): a hoard of 22 coins was uncovered in L5009, east of W101 of the southwestern building, and isolated coins were discovered elsewhere; one coin was unidentifiable.[1] All the coins are of bronze, except for a Ptolemaic silver tetradrachm (No. 1), and relate to Phase III, dated to the Hellenistic period.

The numismatic material, unlike the poorly preserved architectural remains, is remarkable. Among the hoard of 22 minute coins, all but No. 22 are of the common type: 'Apollo standing, holding bow and arrow', dated to the reign of Antiochus III (222–187 BCE). This type also predominates among the isolated coins.

The 'Apollo standing' type was originally minted in Antioch (*SC* 2002:402, No. 1055) and it is most likely that some of the coins—both in the hoard and among the isolated finds (e.g., No. 14)—were struck there. All the variants of this type from the Spaer collection were published under the same entry, with no distinction between mints or varieties (*SNG Israel* 1:86, Nos. 571–591); yet, a number of coins can be considered either imitations (*SC* 2002:403, No. 1062) or local barbarous varieties. Syon (forthcoming) attributed many of the imitative and barbarous issues to the 'Akko-Ptolemais mint, based on criteria such as the thickness of the flans, and the style and geographical distribution of the coins. This attribution was also accepted by Houghton and Lorber, who date these issues from 198 BCE onward (*SC* 2002:416, No. 1096, including a short discussion with references to Syon, forthcoming). Regarding the Or 'Aqiva coins, however, it is difficult to establish mint classification, since no control marks are visible on them and the state of preservation of most of these coins is poor.

The chronological framework of both the hoard and the isolated coins is homogeneous (Table 1). It covers about a century, from the time of Ptolemy II (285–246 BCE) to that of Antioch III (222–187 BCE), with no indication of a gap. This range is most conclusive for the dating of the three autonomous coins (Nos. 8–10) from Side (in Pamphylia, Asia Minor) that are generally dated to the third century BCE. These three coins bear the usual type of the helmeted head of Athena on the obverse, and the pomegranate on the reverse. A record of Sidetan coins discovered in Israel, Syria and Cyprus was compiled by Ariel (2000:47*).

The datings of the coins from Or 'Aqiva suggest that the Hellenistic phase at the site did not continue long into the second century BCE, if at all. That corresponds well with the general dating of the coins from Side.

**Table 1. The Chronological Framework of the Coins**

| Ruler/Date (BCE) | Hoard | Isolated Coins | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ptolemy II (285–246) | – | 6 | 6 |
| Ptolemy III (246–221) | – | 1 | 1 |
| Antiochus III (222–187) | 22 | 13 | 35 |
| Side (Pamphylia) | | 3 | 3 |
| *Total* | *22* | *23* | *45* |

## CATALOGUE

*The Hoard* (L5009, Reg. No. 50447)
H1. IAA 67630 (Fig. 1).
Antiochus III (222–187 BCE), Antioch.
*Obv.:* Laureate head of Apollo r.
*Rev.:* [Β]Α[ΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙ]ΟΧ[ΟΥ] Apollo stg. facing l., holding bow and arrow. No visible control marks.
Æ, ↑, 3.17 g, 12 mm.
*SNG Israel* 1:86, Nos. 571–591 (with no distinction of mints or varieties); *SC* 2002:402, No. 1055.

The following coins are of the same type as No. 1:
H2. IAA 67643, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], 2.43 g, 10 mm. Thick flan; very worn. 'Akko-Ptolemais? Cf. *SC* 2002:416, No. 1096.

H3. IAA 67641 [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↙, 2.17 g, 11 mm. Very worn. Cf. *SC* 2002:404, No. 1064.

H4. IAA 67635, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↑, 2.09 g, 10 mm. Thick flan; very worn. 'Akko-Ptolemais? Cf. *SC* 2002:416, No. 1096.

H5. IAA 67632, [Β]ΑΣΙΛΕ[ΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↑, 2.08 g, 11 mm. No visible control marks. Cf. *SC* 2002:402, No. 1055.

H6. IAA 67631, [ΒΑΣΙ]ΛΕΩ[Σ] ΑΝΤΙΟ[ΧΟΥ], ↗, 2.00 g, 12 mm (Fig. 1). Cf. *SC* 2002:404, No. 1064.

H7. IAA 67633, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↗, 1.96 g, 11 mm (Fig. 1). Cf. *SC* 2002:404, No. 1064.

H8. IAA 67634, [ΒΑΣΙ]ΛΕΩΣ [ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↑, 1.91 g, 10 mm (Fig. 1). 'Akko-Ptolemais? Cf. *SC* 2002:416, No. 1096.

H9. IAA 67647, ΒΑΣΙ[ΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↑, 1.87 g, 11 mm. Very worn.

H10. IAA 67639, [ΒΑΣΙΛ]Ε[ΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], 1.64 g, 10 mm. Very worn. 'Akko-Ptolemais? Cf. *SC* 2002:416, No. 1096.

H11. IAA 67642, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↑, 1.56 g, 11 mm. Very worn.

H12. IAA 67646, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↑, 1.54 g, 9 mm. Very worn.

H13. IAA 67638, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↑, 1.50 g, 11 mm. Cf. SC 2002:404, No. 1064.

H14. IAA 67636, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↑, 1.30 g, 10 mm. Very worn. 'Akko-Ptolemais? Cf. *SC* 2002:416, No. 1096.

H15. IAA 67637, [ΒΑ]ΣΙΛΕΩΣ [ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↑, 1.25 g, 9 mm. Cf. *SC* 2002:404, No. 1064.

H16. IAA 67645, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], 1.25 g, 10 mm. Very worn.

H17. IAA 67644, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], 1.18 g, 9 mm. Very worn.

Fig. 1.

H18. IAA 67651, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ] ΑΝΤΙ[ΟΧΟΥ], 1.18 g, 11 mm. Very worn.

H19. IAA 67650, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], ↗, 1.10 g, 10 mm. Very worn.

H20. IAA 67648, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], 1.04 g, 11 mm. Very worn.

H21. IAA 67640, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ], 0.88 g, 9 mm. Worn.

H22. IAA 67649 (Fig.1).
Antiochus III (222–187 BCE), Tyre.
*Obv.:* Laureate head r.
*Rev.:* [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ] ΑΝΤΙΟΧ[ΟΥ] Club.
Æ, ↓, 1.36 g, 10 mm.
*SNG Israel* 1:98, Nos. 681–684.

*Isolated Coins*

1. Reg. No. 50444, L5015, IAA 67652 (Fig. 2).
Ptolemy II? (285–246 BCE), Alexandria?
*Obv.:* Head of Ptolemy I, laureate, r.
*Rev.:* [ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ] ΒΑΣΙΛΕ[ΩΣ] Eagle stg. l. on thunderbolt. On l. field: ⍲. On r. field, two punchmarks.
ÆR tetradrachm, ↑, 13.13 g, 27 mm.
Cf. *SNG Ptolemies*: Pl. III, No. 87.

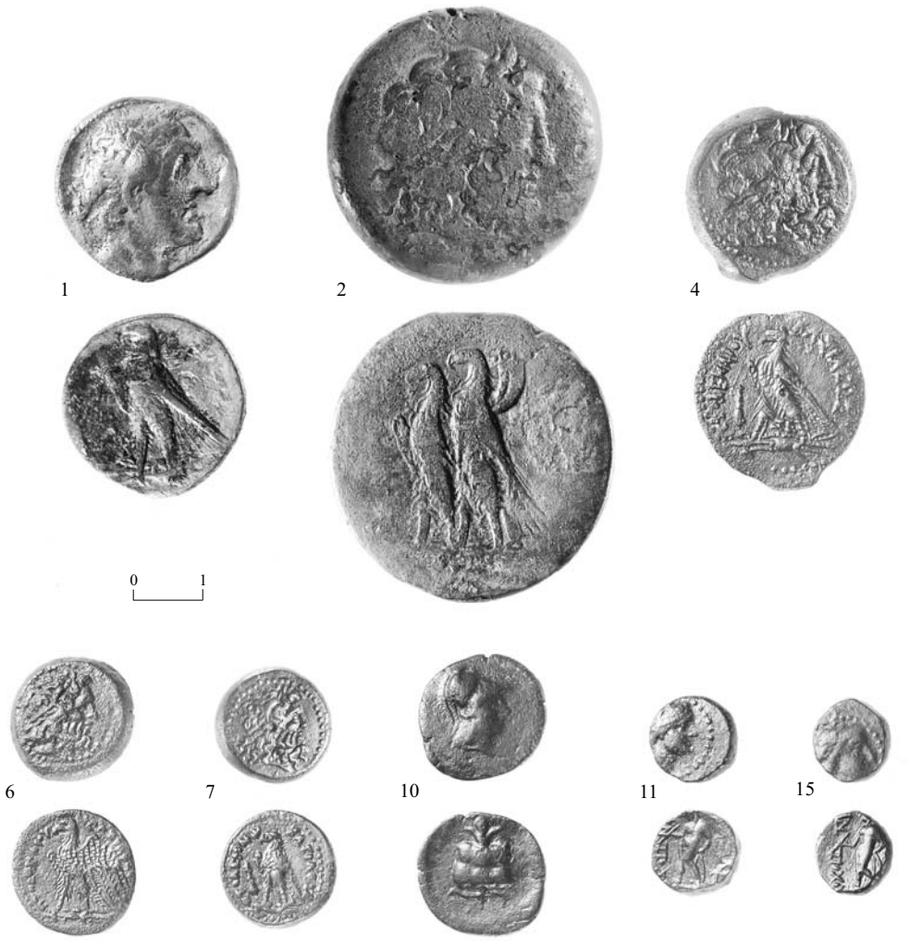


Fig. 2.

2. Reg. No. 50081, L5032, IAA 67653 (Fig. 2).
Ptolemy II, Sidon, 271–246 BCE.
*Obv.:* Head of Zeus-Ammon, laureate, r.
*Rev.:* Two jugate eagles stg. l. on thunderbolt. Over left shoulder of the right eagle, two parallel cornucopiae.
Æ, ↖, 63.92 g, 43 mm.
Svoronos 1904:111, No. 758.

3. Reg. No. 10045, L1002, IAA 68303.
Ptolemy II (285–246 BCE), Tyre.
*Obv.:* Head of Zeus–Ammon, laureate, r.
*Rev.:* ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ Eagle stg. l. on thunderbolt. In l. field, club.
Æ, ↑, 12.86 g, 24 mm. Hole centered.
*SNG Ptolemies*: Pl. XVII, No. 495.

4. Reg. No. 30018, L3008, IAA 68306 (Fig. 2).
As No. 3.
Æ, ↑, 10.71 g, 24 mm. Hole–centered.

5. Reg. No. 10118, L1022, IAA 68305.
As No. 3.
Æ, ↑, 9.98 g, 23 mm. Hole–centered.

6. Reg. No. 50218, L5002, IAA 68307 (Fig. 2).
Ptolemy II (285–246 BCE), Alexandria.
*Obv.:* Head of Zeus–Ammon, laureate, r.
*Rev.:* ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΒΑΣ[ΙΛΕΩΣ] Eagle stg. l. on thunderbolt.
Æ, ↑, 3.67 g, 17 mm. Hole centered.
*SNG Ptolemies*: Pl. VI, No. 166.

7. Reg. No. 10048, L1002, IAA 68304 (Fig. 2).
Ptolemy III (246–221 BCE), Tyre.
*Obv.:* Head of Zeus–Ammon, laureate, r.
*Rev.:* ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ Eagle stg. l. on thunderbolt. On l. field, club.
Æ, ↑, 3.22 g, 17 mm. Hole–centered.
*SNG Ptolemies*: Pl. XVII, No. 503.

8. Reg. No. 10052/I, L1015, IAA 68309.
Autonomous, Side (Pamphylia), third century BCE.
*Obv.:* Helmeted head of Athena r.
*Rev.:* Pomegranate.
Æ, ↗, 4.18 g, 16 mm.
*SNG* 6: Pl. 11, Nos. 381–383.

9. Reg. No. 50328, L5066, IAA 68310.
As No. 8.
Æ, 3.42 g, 16 mm.

10. Reg. No. 10088, L1015, IAA 68308 (Fig. 2).
As No. 8.
Æ, ↑, 2.53 g, 18 mm.

11. Reg. No. 10093, L1020, IAA 68311 (Fig. 2).
Antiochus III (222–187 BCE), Antioch.
*Obv.:* Laureate head of Apollo r.
*Rev.:* ΒΑΣΙΛΕ[ΩΣ] ΑΝΤΙΟΧ[ΟΥ] Apollo stg. facing l., holding bow and arrow. No visible control marks.
Æ, ↑, 2.31 g, 12 mm.
*SNG Israel* 1:86, Nos. 571–591. Cf. *SC* 2002:404, No. 1064.

The following coins (Nos. 12–23) are of the same type as No. 11:
12. Reg. No. 10052, L1007, IAA 68320, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ].
Æ, 2.47 g, 11 mm.

13. Reg. No. 50219, L5002, IAA 68323, [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ].
Æ, 2.24 g, 10 mm. Very worn.

14. Reg. No. 10089, L1020, IAA 68315, [ΒΑΣΙ]ΛΕΩΣ [ΑΝΤ]ΙΟΧΟΥ.
Æ, 2.23 g, 12 mm. Cf. *SC* 2002:402, No. 1055.

15. Reg. No. 10090, L1020, IAA 68312 (Fig. 2). [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ] ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ. No visible control marks.
Æ, ↑, 2.18 g, 11 mm. Cf. SC 2002:404, No. 1064.

16. Reg. No. 10095, L1020, IAA 68314. ΒΑΣ[ΙΛΕΩΣ] ΑΝΤΙΟ[ΧΟΥ]. No visible control marks.
Æ, ↑, 2.08 g, 11 mm. Cf. *SC* 2002:404, No. 1064.

17. Reg. No. 50136, L5002, IAA 68318. [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ].
Æ, ↑, 2.06 g, 12 mm. Very worn.

18. Reg. No. 50196, L5054, IAA 68321. [ΒΑΣ]ΙΛΕΩΣ [ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ]. No visible control marks.
Æ, ↑, 1.94 g, 11 mm. Cf. *SC* 2002:402, No. 1055.

19. Reg. No. 50137, L5002, IAA 68317. [Β]ΑΣΙΛΕΩ[Σ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ]. No visible control marks.
Æ, 1.85 g, 10 mm. Cf. *SC* 2002:404, No. 1064.

20. Reg. No. 50396, L5009, IAA 68313. [Β]ΑΣΙΛΕ[ΩΣ] ΑΝΤΙ[ΟΧΟΥ].
Æ, ↑, 1.73 g, 13 mm. ‘Akko-Ptolemais? Cf. *SC* 2002:416, No. 1096.

21. Reg. No. 20031, L2008, IAA 68316. [Β]ΑΣΙΛΕΩ[Σ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ].
Æ, ↑, 1.39 g, 11 mm. Very worn.

22. Reg. No. 50319, L5039, IAA 68319. [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ].
Æ, ↑, 1.13 g, 10 mm. Worn.

23. Reg. No. 10060, L1012, IAA 68322. [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ].
Æ, ↑, 0.99 g, 9 mm. Very worn.

## NOTE

[1] The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratories under the direction of Ella Altmark and photographed by Sandu Mandrea.

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