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The Coins from the Magen Avraham Compound, Yafo (Jaffa)

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A total of 45 coins were unearthed during salvage excavations in the Magen Avraham Compound, located in the eastern part of modern Yafo, in what seems to have been the city's agricultural belt in antiquity (see Arbel and Rauchberger, this volume). Of these coins, 34 were identified (see *Catalogue*, below).[1] The identifiable material dates from the following periods: Early Roman (first century CE; Stratum VII); Byzantine (Stratum VI); Early Islamic (Stratum V); Crusader, Ayyubid and Mamluk (Stratum IV); Ottoman (Strata III–II); and British Mandate (Stratum I). These finds represent the typical repertoire of coins that have been found in Yafo over the past 60 years, presently amounting to more than 2600 specimens.

The Roman–Byzantine Period

Three coins date to the Roman–Byzantine period, comprising the ubiquitous "Canopy" *pruta* of Agrippa I dated to 41/42 CE (No. 1) and two Byzantine-period bronzes: a late fourth-century small-module FEL TEMP REPARATIO bronze (351–361 CE; No. 2) and what seems to be a local imitation of an Alexandrian *dodecanumium*, minted in the short reign of Phocas (602–610 CE; No. 3). The small-module bronze was found near the remains of liquid vats (L365) that were part of an industrial press installation of the Byzantine period (see Arbel and Rauchberger, this volume).

The Early Islamic Period

These coins comprise an Umayyad copper *fals* minted in Damascus (No. 4) and an Abbasid *fals* from the reign of Caliph al-Mahdi (No. 5).

The Frankish Period (Twelfth–Thirteenth Centuries CE)

The coins of this period (Nos. 6–10) belong to types that were commonly found in excavations inside the Medieval Frankish *faubourg* of Yafo, e.g., the Qishle excavation (Kool, in press). As no distinct Frankish-period layer or structures were uncovered in the present excavation (Arbel and Rauchberger, this volume), these coins may represent accidental losses by local

[1] The coins were cleaned by Victoria Nosikovsky of the IAA Metals Laboratory and were photographed by Clara Amit of the IAA photography studio.

Fig. 1.

farmers or by passersby pilgrims and merchants. The earliest coin of this period is a rare twelfth-century CE BALDVINVS *obol* (No. 6), the smallest denomination of the first official small billon currency of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, minted in the reign of King Baldwin III (1143–1163 CE).

The other four Crusader-period coins date to the late twelfth and thirteenth centuries, a volatile period in Yafo's history when the town was shortly occupied by Saladin's Ayyubid forces (1187–1191, 1197–1204 CE), reconquered but left abandoned by the Franks (1204–1227 CE) and finally repopulated and fortified under Frederick II, the Holy Roman Emperor (1227–1229 CE) and Louis IX, king of France (1252–1253 CE). These coins comprise an Ayyubid *fals* (No. 10), post-dating the Ayyubid retreat, likely testifying to commercial contacts between the Frankish city and the Ayyubid-controlled part of the region, and possibly also the use of such foreign currency as small copper change in the Frankish enclave; a small fragment of a *denier* of John of Brienne (No. 7), the last official royal issue of the Jerusalem kingdom, minted in 1219–1221 CE to celebrate John's short-lived conquest of the Ayyubid port of Damiata in the Nile estuary; a *denier* of Hugh I, king of Cyprus (1205–1218; No. 8), the first of several Lusignan issues, which became the dominant small change billon coinage in the Kingdom of Jerusalem, replacing its own rapidly deteriorating royal coinage; and a *denaro* issued in the royal mint of Brindisi in 1248, under Frederick II (No. 9), evidence of the strong political and commercial ties between the Franks and the Sicilian kingdom. These debased Sicilian billons were minted in large quantities after 1239 (Travaini 1995). More than 70 of them were unearthed in Levantine sites, particularly in coastal sites, such as Caesarea and 'Atlit, and in the northern part of the Crusader kingdom, between Acre and Tyre (Kool, in press).

The Mamluk, Late Ottoman, British Mandate and Modern Periods

These coins comprise two Mamluk-period *fulus* (Nos. 11, 12) and regular issues of the eighteenth–twentieth centuries. The Ottoman-period issues were mostly nineteenth- and early twentieth-century small change (Nos. 14–21; see Pamuk 2000); one eighteenth-

century coin (No. 13) and a few coins of the later part of the twentieth century were also found. Also among the finds of this period is an Imperial Russian 2 *kopecs* copper issued in 1896 (No. 22). The latest coins from the excavation include small copper change minted in Egypt in 1917, during the World War I British occupation of Palestine (Nos. 23–25); small change minted in 1922–1952 in the British-dominated Kingdom of Egypt (No. 26); and small change issued by the State of Israel (Nos. 31–34).

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CATALOGUE[i]

No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
					EARLY ROMAN **Herodian** **Agrippa I, 37–44 CE, *Pruta***						
1	939	10272	5.25	22	Illegible	Three ears of grain	41/42	Jerusalem	*TJC*:231, No. 120		147406
					BYZANTINE **351–361 CE, *Nummus***						
2	365	3549	1.29	11	Bust to r.	[FEL TEMP REPARATIO] Horseman spearing soldier					147407
					Imitation of Phocas, 602–610 CE, *Dodecanumium*						
3	611	6031	1.10	14	Bust to r.	I+B In exergue: AΛE(Ξ)			Bijovsky 2012:366		147414
					UMMAYYAD **697–750 CE, *Fals***						
4	829	8080	1.98	17	In center, within linear circle: لاالة الا اللة وحده	In center, within linear circle: محمد رسول الله		Damascus	*SICA* 2: No. 1191, Pl. 57		147409
					ABBASSID **Al-Mahdi, 158–169 AH/775–785 CE, *Fals***						
5	550	5265	0.63	16	In braided border: لاالة الا اللة وحده لاشريكله	In center, within linear circle: محمد رسول الله			Cf. Lowick 1999:348, No. 480		147420
					LATIN KINGDOM OF JERUSALEM **Baldwin III, 1143–1163, *Obol***						
6*	549	5257	0.33	12	✠ BAL[D]VINVS [R]EX Cross pattée	✠DEI [E]RVSALEH Tower of David	1153–1163	Jerusalem	Metcalf 1995: Nos. 165–167	"Smooth coinage", group 5	147401

[i] Coins bearing an asterisk appear in Fig. 1.

Catalogue (cont.)

No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
					John of Brienne, 1210–1225, *Denier*						
7	356	3544	0.19	12	[✠IOhE]S RE[X] Cross pattée; annulets in 2nd and 3rd quarter	[✠DAMI]A[TA] Crowned bust, facing of king	1219–1221	Acre(?)	Cf. Metcalf 1995: No. 205, Pl. 12	Quarter fragment	147405
					KINGDOM OF CYPRUS **Hugh I, de Lusignan, 1205–1218 CE, *Denier***						
8*	667	6624	0.67	18	∘ CYPR[I] Cross pattée; pellet and crescent left and right	✠REX [hV]GO Tower gate with battlements		Cyprus	Cf. Metcalf 1998: Nos. 8, 210	Type 4	147403
					ITALY **Frederick II, king of Sicily, *Denaro***						
9*	942	10179	0.69	17	✠ · R · IERSL' · ET SICIL' Circle upon cross	✠ROMIMPR · SEPAVG In center, below suspension mark: F R	1248(?)	Brindisi	Travaini 1993:118, No. 47		147404
					AYYUBID **Principality of Aleppo Al-Zahir Ghazi, 582–613 AH/1186–1216 CE, *Fals***						
10*	36	103	3.96	28	In center: eight pointed star design, within: eight-pointed dotted star الناصر / الملك	In center: [الامام / الناصر]	1206 – 1216	Hamah	Cf. Balog 1980:215, No. 670	Overstrike on *fals* of Al-Adil	147400
					MAMLŪK **Al Naṣir abu al-Sa'adat Muḥammad, 901–904 AH/1496–1498 CE, *Fals***						
11	Surf.	1024	0.96	14	In circle: عز / نصره In margin:)السلطان الملك الناصر ابو السعادات)	In square of dots: محمد			Balog 1964:363, No. 85	Worn	147419
					14–15th c. CE, *Fals*						
12	616	6047	1.89	19	الملك....	Illegible					147408

CATALOGUE (cont.)

No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
					OTTOMAN **Abdul Ḥamid, 1187–1203 AH/1774–1789 CE, *Para***						
13	668	6557	0.28	15	Tughra	ضرب فئ مصر ١١٨٧	1205 AH/ 1776	Misr	Pere 1968:225, No. 683		p-850881
					Musṭafa IV, 1222–1223 AH/1807–1808 CE, *Para*						
14	544	5180	0.23	12	Tughra	ضرب فئ قسطنطينية ١٢٢٣	1222 AH/ 1807	Qostantiniyeh	Pere 1968:237, No. 736		147402
					Maḥmud II, 1223–1255 AH/1808–1839 CE, *Yirmilik*						
15	541	5160	1.33	20	Tughra	ضرب فئ قسطنطينية ١٢٢٣		Same	Pere 1968:251, No. 827		p-850885
					Abdul Mecid, 1255–1277 AH/1839–1861 CE, *Kirk Para*						
16	-	51	20.27	38	Tughra	١٩ ٤ ضرب فئ قسطنطينية سنة ١٢٥٥	Year 19/ 1274 AH/ 1857/8	Same	Pere 1968:261, 902		p-850917
					On para						
17	800	8071	4	27	Tughra	Illegible ١٢٥٥		Same	Pere 1968:261, 905		p-850914
					Moḥammed V **1327–1336 AH/1909–1918 CE, *10 para***						
18	501	5066	2.44	19	Tughra	١٠ ١٣٢٧	1914	Same	Pere 1968:291, No. 1062		p-850905
					Ottoman						
19	21	79	15.70	36	Illegible	Illegible					p-850889
20	19	55	2.99	20	Illegible	Illegible					p-850884

CATALOGUE (cont.)

No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
21	609	6037	0.72	20	Illegible	Illegible					p-850883
					EUROPEAN **Russian Empire Nicholas II, 1894–1917, *2 Kopeck***						
22	300	3000	6.18	22	Crowned double-headed imperial eagle, date in marginal inscription	Value within beaded circle: 2 КОПБЕКЪ	1896	St. Petersburg (?)			p-850897
					British Protectorate of Egypt, 1914–1922 **Ḥussein Kamal, 1914–1917, *2 Qirsh***						
23	501	5012	2.72	20	Tughra date: ١٣٣٣	Denomination and inscription within wreath	1917	Egypt			p-850904
					2 Milliemes						
24	669	6545	3.84	20	Around center hole, date (1335), name of ruler, Tughra	Around center hole, denomination in Arabic and English; date	1917	Egypt			p-850911
					5 Milliemes						
25	669	6569	4.56	24	Around center hole, date (1335), name of ruler, Tughra	Around center hole, denomination in Arabic and English; date	1917	Egypt			p-850912
					Kingdom of Egypt, 1922–1955						
26	83	546	4.56	16	[- - -]YPT Bust r. of king	Illegible		Egypt		Perforated	p-850892
					British Mandate of Palestine, 1927–1948, *Mil*						
27	Surf.	2000	3.02	21	فلسطين Palestine פלשתינה (א"י) ١٩٢٧	In margin: מילים ONE MIL ملان In center: olive branch flanked on both sides: 1 and ١	1927	Mandatory Palestine	Berlin 2001:34		p-850920
28	547	5227	3.02	21	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same		p-850908
29	-	502	3.02	21	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same		p-850918

CATALOGUE (cont.)

No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
30	380	3558	6.11	29	فلسطين Palestine פלשתינה (א"י) ١٩٢٧	In margin: מילים TWO MILS ملان In center: olive branch flanked on both sides: 2 and ٢	1927	Mandatory Palestine	Berlin 2001:35–36		p-850900
					5 Mils						
31	50	501	2.76	21	center hole with inscriptions: فلسطين Palestine פלשתינה (א"י) ١٩٢٧	Center hole with inscriptions: מילים 5 MILS ٥ ملان	1935	Same	Berlin 2001:37		p-850891
					State of Israel 5 *Pruta*						
32	428	4096	3.2	20	Four-stringed lyre; Israel in Hebrew and Arabic	Denomination and date in Hebrew; two stylized olive branches around rim	1950–1980	Jerusalem	http://www.boi.org.il/en/Currency/PastNotesAndCoinsSeries/Pages/Default.aspx#Top		p-850903
					50 *Pruta*						
33	125	1074	5.6	23.5	Vine-leaf; Israel in Hebrew and Arabic	Denomination and date in Hebrew; two stylized olive branches around rim	1950–1980	Jerusalem	http://www.boi.org.il/en/Currency/PastNotesAndCoinsSeries/Pages/Default.aspx#Top		p-850894
					1 *Sheqel*						
34	411	4044	5	23	Chalice; Sheqel Israel in Hebrew	Denomination in Hebrew; emblem of the State of Israel; Israel in Hebrew, English and Arabic; date in Hebrew	1981–1985	Jerusalem	http://www.boi.org.il/en/Currency/PastNotesAndCoinsSeries/Pages/Default.aspx#Top		p-850902