

APPENDIX C: COINS FROM SUBTERRANEAN COMPLEX 1

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Subterranean Complex 1 yielded 79 coins, of which 65 were identifiable and one was partially intelligible. All were made of bronze. They range in date from the mid-third to the mid-second centuries BCE.

Ptolemaic Coins.— A total of nine coins (Cn.1–Cn.9) from the Ptolemaic period were found, ranging in date from Ptolemy II Philadelphus (before c. 265–261 BCE) to Ptolemy IV (221–205 BCE). All six coins of Ptolemy II were minted in Tyre, one coin of Ptolemy IV was minted in Alexandria, and the other two are illegible.

Seleucid Coins.— A total of 52 coins (Cn.10–Cn.61) from the Seleucid period were found, ranging from Antiochus III the Great (222–187 BCE) to Alexander II Zebinas (128–122 BCE). They comprise 77% of all the coins. This is consistent with the 950 coins discovered so far at Maresha, of which over 80% are Seleucid (Barkay, forthcoming). The large amount of Seleucid coins is in accordance with the historical and archaeological evidence indicating that Maresha played important military and economic roles during this period.

Side (Pamphylia) Coins.— Two autonomous non-epigraphic coins from Side (Cn.62, Cn.63), dating from the third century BCE, were found (*BMC Lycia*:59, Pl. XXVIII:4; *SNG*: Nos. 381–383; Atlan 1976: No. 53). On their obverses they depict the head of Athena in a crested Corinthian helmet, and on their reverses—a pomegranate with a stalk. *Σίδη* in Greek means pomegranate, which was the city's symbol. The coins range in date from the time of Ptolemy II Philadelphus (265–261 BCE) to the rule of Alexander II Zebinas (128–122 BCE). It seems that this context indicates that the Side coins continued to be in circulation during the second century BCE. The general picture from Maresha as well as from other known contexts suggests that the use of these coins in the Southern Levant dates from the late third to the mid-second centuries BCE (Barkay, forthcoming).

City Coins of Ashqelon.— Two city coins of Ashqelon were found (Cn.64, Cn.65), both dating to the mid-second century BCE. Both are of the same type, depicting the head of Tyche on the obverse and a galley prow on the reverse. The letters ΑΣ (for Ashqelon) appear above the galley. These coins were struck on bevelled-edge flans. The latest known dated coins of Ashqelon on bevelled-edge flans were minted under Tryphon (142–139 BCE); they may have been minted later but there is no evidence for this. Our dates for the bevelled Ashqelonian coins therefore range between Antiochus IV and Tryphon (Kushnir-Stein 2002:78–83).

Unidentified Coin.— Coin no. 66 is a small bronze, depicting on its obverse an object, reminiscent of an elongated lyre. No legend is visible. On the reverse are two objects, one thick and straight, the other thinner and curved. They are parallel to one another and might belong to one object. It seems that part of the reverse was overstruck, making the traces of letters illegible.

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