

COINS FROM QURNAT ḤARAMIYA (ROSH HA-‘AYIN)

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Nine coins were found in the excavation at Qurnat Ḥaramiya (see Torgë and Avner 2018).¹ With one exception—a post-reform Ummayyad coin found on the surface (No. 9)—all the coins date from the Persian and Hellenistic periods, with a predominancy of coins of Phoenician origin (Sidon, Byblos, Tyre). Although small in numbers, this assemblage shows a continuous chronological sequence from the beginning of the fourth century BCE to the mid-third century BCE, ending with three Ptolemaic coins (Nos. 6–8); no Seleucid coins were discovered. This numismatic evidence corroborates the general dating proposed by the excavators for the latest period of occupation at the site.

The assemblage includes one Athenian *tetradrachma* (No. 1). The appearance of this coin along with Sidonian minute silver coins is not exclusive to our site. Both currencies circulated in our region side by side, and can be found in hoards, as demonstrated by Ariel (2006), who mentions several such hoards in his discussion of the finds from Tel Mikhal.² Interestingly, the Athenian *tetradrachmas* from both Tel Mikhal and our site seem to be contemporaneous with the Sidonian silver coins, dated to the reign of Straton I (371–357/354 BCE; Nos. 2–4).

CATALOGUE

1. Reg. No. 599, L261, IAA 85121, Fig. 1.

Autonomous, Athenian pi-style, 393–300 BCE.

Obv: Helmeted head of Athena r.

Rev: AΘE Owl stg. r., head facing; in upper l., olive sprig; in l. field, crescent.

Ⲡ, *tetradrachm*, ←, 17.04 g, 19 mm.

SNG Denmark III, Attica: Pl. 2, No. 63; Kroll 1993:8–9, No. 28.

2. Reg. No. 5569, L707, IAA 66911.

Straton I (371/367–357/354 BCE), Sidon.

Obv: Obliterated.

Rev: Persian king in quadriga, facing r.

Ⲡ, quarter sheqel, 5.81 g, 15 mm.

BMC Phoen.:146, Nos. 32–33.

3. Reg. No. 5643, L717, IAA 66912, Fig. 1.

Straton I (371/367–357/354 BCE), Sidon.

Obv: War galley l.; below two lines of waves; date illegible.

Rev: King of Persia r., slaying lion; between them, ϣο

Ⲡ, 1/16 sheqel, ↓, 0.71 g, 9 mm.

Cf. *BMC Phoen.*:146, Nos. 34–35; *Betlyon* 1982:11, No. 26.

4. Reg. No. 5556, L707, IAA 66910, Fig. 1.

Same as No. 3.

Ⲡ, 1/16 sheqel, ↓, 0.71 g, 10 mm.

5. Reg. No. 638, L264, IAA 66901, Fig. 1.

Alexander the Great (posthumous), Byblos, c. 330–320 BCE.

Obv: Head of Alexander the Great r., with lion skin.

Rev: ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ Quiver, bow and club. In l. field: Ⲡ

Ⲟ, ↑, 8.99 g, 20 mm.

Price 1991:431, No. 3427.

6. Reg. No. 777, L130, IAA 66900.

Ptolemy I, Alexandria, 310–305 BCE.

Obv: Head of Alexander the Great r., with diadem and horn of Zeus-Ammon.

Rev: Eagle stg. l., with open wings. In l. field, helmet and aphlaston.

Ⲟ, ↑, 4.19 g, 17 mm.

SNG Ptolemies: Pl. II, No. 36.

7. Reg. No. 151, L60, IAA 66903, Fig. 1.

Ptolemy II, Tyre, 285–243 BCE.

Obv: Head of Zeus r., with diadem.

Rev: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ Eagle stg. l. on thunderbolt, between legs: ΔΙ

Ⲟ, ↑, 65 g, 42 mm, hole-centered.

SNG Ptolemies: Pl. XVII, No. 493 (but no monogram between legs).

8. Reg. No. 5554, L648, IAA 66909.

Ptolemy II, Alexandria, 285–246 BCE.

Obv: Head of Zeus r., with diadem.

Rev: [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ] Eagle stg. l., with open wings.

Æ, ↑, 3.68 g, 17 mm.

SNG Ptolemies: Pl. III, No. 94.

9. Reg. No. 502, surface, area C, IAA 66902.

Umayyad post-Reform, al-Ramleh, eighth century CE.

Obv: اللّٰه الا الله وحده within circle.

Rev: محمد رسول الله in r. field, a palm branch.

Æ, *fals*, 2.13 g, 23 mm.

Walker 1956:255, No. 846.



Fig. 1.

NOTES

¹ I would like to thank Hagit Torgē for inviting me to study these coins. The coins were cleaned at the IAA laboratories under the direction of Lena Kupperschmidt, and were photographed by C. Amit of the IAA. The article was written in 2007. Smadar Gabrieli edited the article.

² For further information on the currency of this period, see Gitler and Tal 2006.

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