

JERUSALEM, THE OLD CITY: THE COINS

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Sixty-three coins of the eighty coins found during the excavation at 7 Shone Halakhot Street in the Old City of Jerusalem were identified. The remaining twenty coins were badly worn and could not be identified. All the coins are bronze, unless otherwise noted in the catalogue. Although including coins from the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods (see catalogue; Fig. 1), the article will focus on the two groups of Islamic-period coins: the Ayyubid and Mamluk *fulus* (copper coins).



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Fig. 1.

AYYUBID *FULUS*

After the battle of Hattin (1187 CE), Jerusalem became fully integrated into the circulation zone of Damascus petty coinage. Archaeological evidence indicates that the influx of Damascene coppers into the region began already in the mid-twelfth century CE, when it was still the territory of the kingdom of Jerusalem. These coins may have even circulated as media of payment by the inhabitants of the kingdom before 1187 CE (Kool 2013:197–198). There is no doubt that these coins, like the one minted by Nur al-Din (1146–1174 CE; Nos. 16, 17) maintained their value and remained in circulation long after his death in the first half of the thirteenth century CE (Heidemann 2009:283–284).

Ayyubid *fulus*, representing petty money, were used largely for small, daily, domestic purchases. The 12 Ayyubid coppers comprise only 8% of the identified coins. They differ considerably from the later, much more abundant, Mamluk issues: they are substantially heavier than the Mamluk coppers—Damascene coppers weigh between 4.0 and 5.7 grams (Balog 1980:41), almost 2 grams more than the Mamluk coppers; and they are more carefully minted, round and symmetrical coins, unlike the Mamluk *fulus*, which were of poorer quality, often made of carelessly clipped sheets of metal with off-flan inscriptions (Schultz 2013).

MAMLUK *FULUS*

Only thirty-five Mamluk coins could be fully identified (55.5% of the identified assemblage). Their shapes are irregular, and inscriptions are seldom legible. Twenty-five of them weigh well below 2.5 grams.

In general, copper coins from the first three Mamluk decades are rather scarce. None were found in the early Mamluk layers of the excavation. This is also the case in large Mamluk coin assemblages found in other excavations in Jerusalem. The earliest four coppers, from 1310 CE, were minted during the third reign of al-Naṣir Muḥammad (1310–1341 CE); four date from the 1340s; ten date from the second half of the fourteenth century CE and were minted during the reign of Shaʿaban II (1363–1377 CE), the second reign of Hajji II (1389–1390 CE) and that of Faraj (1399–1405 CE; 1406–1412 CE). The remaining eleven coins date roughly from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries CE. A similar pattern can be observed among the late fourteenth-century Mamluk *fulus* found at the excavations in Safed (Kool and Berman, forthcoming).

Unlike the Ayyubid coppers, Mamluk *fulus* were used for both large and small purchases. Although copper *fulus* were well integrated into the monetary circulation as early as the reign of the Ayyubid sultan al-Kamil Muḥammad (1218–1238 CE), their value during the Mamluk period increased in the markets throughout the Levant (Shultz 1995:53–57). From the mid-fourteenth century to the turn of the fifteenth century CE, their circulation multiplied (Schultz 1998:127–148), but their weight and value often fluctuated. By the end of the fourteenth century CE, 24 *fulus* were worth one silver dirham (Schultz 1995:165, 202, 230–231).

CATALOGUE¹

Cat. No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
SELEUCIDS											
Antiochus III (222–187 BCE)											
1	127	1178/1	1.04	12 × 10	Head r. (?)	Apollo standing l.		Antioch	SC I/1:402, No. 1058		139104
Antiochus VII (138–129 BCE)											
2*	129	1218	1.97	15 × 15	Lily on stem	ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ/ANTIOXOY/ EYEPETEOY Anchor	132/1–131/0 BCE	Jerusalem	SC II/1:392, No. 2123		139107
PTOLEMIES											
Late Ptolemaic											
3*	129	1212	5.88	19 × 18	Bust of Zeus-Ammon	Two eagles l. standing on lightning. In field l., horn of plenty	105–103 or 47–44 BCE	Paphos	Gitler and Kushnir-Stein 1994–1999:50, 52, Nos. 1, 70		139106
HASMONEANS											
John Hyrcanus (129–105 BCE)											
4	129	1263/3	1.76	15 × 13	יהוחנן נה [---] [---]	Double cornucopiae with pomegranate between horns		Jerusalem	TJC:212, Group F		139110
Alexander Yannai (104–76 BCE)											
5	127	1178	1.55	15 × 14	יהוחנן נה כהן- דלו [---] [---]	Double cornucopiae(?)	At least until 99/8 BCE	Same	TJC:212, Group P		139103
6*	133	1264	3.21	16 × 15	יהוחנן נה הגדול [---]	Same	Same	Same	TJC:213, Sub Group Q2		139112
7	129	1218/2	1.32	12 × 10	נה נה לוח	Same		Jerusalem	TJC:212, Group S		139109
8	129	1218/1	2.33	16 × 13	Illegible	Same					139108
9	132	1249	2.92	16 × 14	Illegible	Same		Jerusalem			139111
10	108	1177	1.92	14 × 13	Illegible	Same		Jerusalem			139079

¹ Coins marked with an asterisk appear in Fig. 1.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
ROMAN											
First Jewish Revolt (66–70 CE)											
11*	108	1304	6.93	20 × 19	Cup לגולה ציין	שנת ה'רנ"ב Lulav between two Etrogs	69/70 = Year 4	Jerusalem	7JC:243, 214		139080
Roman Provincial											
12	127	1229	14.43	28 × 27	Bust to r. Illegible		2–3 c.				139105
13	125	1154	7.38	24 × 22	Bust to r. Same		2–3 c.				139098
BYZANTINE											
Anastasius (498–518 CE)											
14	126	1179	2.76	20 × 20	Bust to r.	K ; to l. Cross between small N and I	498–507	Nicomedia	<i>M/BE</i> :91, Nos. 47, 48		139102
UMMAYYADS											
Pre-reform (640s–696 CE), <i>foliis</i>											
15	103	1020/6	2.70	20 × 17	Emperor facing, holding a long cross and globe. m		647–670		<i>S/CA</i> 1: Type K		139067
ZANGIDS											
Atabegs of Ḥalab											
Maḥmūd bin Zangī al-'Adil Nur al-Dīn (AH 561–569 / 1146–1174 CE), <i>foliis</i>											
16	126	1156/1	4.78	25 × 23	In center: [الملك العادل]	In center: محمود ابن زنگي		Dimashq	Hennequin 1985:296, No. 564		139100
17	115	1162	6.13	23 × 23	Same	Same		Same	Hennequin 1985:300, No. 586		139087
AVYUBIDS											
Sultanate of Egypt											
Al-Nāṣir Yūsuf Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn (AH 570–589 / 1174–1193 CE), <i>foliis</i>											
18*	122	1142/3	5.74	23 × 23	In center: الملك / الناصر	In center: يوسف ابن ايوب	1174–1193	Same	Balog 1980:94, No. 148		139093
19	124	1146	4.72	25 × 25	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same		139094
20	108	1143	5.36	24 × 23	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same		139075

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
Principality of Aleppo											
Al-Zahir Ghīyāth Ghāzī ibn Šafāh al-Dīn (AH 582–613 / 1186–1216 CE), <i>fals</i>											
21	122	1142	3.56	22 × 20	In margin: [---/---] حـ Eight-pointed star, in center: الملك الطهر	Eight-pointed star, in center: [----- الناصر	1193–1216	Aleppo	Balog 1980:215, No. 670		139091
Al-ʿAdil I Abū Bakr Sayf al-Dīn (AH 596–615 / 1199–1218 CE), <i>fals</i>											
22	128	1244/2	5.18	23 × 23	الملك العادل سيف			Dimashq	Balog 1980:115, No. 322		139122
23	128	1217	4.69	24 × 22	Same	Same	Same	Same	Same		139114
24*	126	1156	4.53	23 × 23	In margin: الفس يد ... سنة.... In center: الدين الملك العادل	In center: أبو بكر بن أيوب Small stars in four corners arabesque, above and below		Same	Balog 1980:138, No. 324		139099
Ayyubid Principality of Ḥamah											
Al-Manṣūr II Muḥammad Saʿid al-Dīn cited as overlord al-Šāliḥ II Ayyub Najm al-Dīn (AH 637–647 / 1239–1249 CE)											
25	128	1217/1	1.56	17 × 15	الملك الصالح	الملك / المنصور		Ḥamah	SMAT 1998:20, Nos. 113–116		
Ayyubids											
(End of 12th c. – early 13th c.), <i>fals</i>											
26	126	1163	5.91	21 × 21	Illegible	Illegible					139101
MAMLUKS											
Al-Nāṣir Nāṣir al-Dīn Muḥammad 3rd reign (AH 709–741 / 1310–1341 CE), <i>fals</i>											
27	128	1217/3	2.62	19 × 17	الملك الناصر	Round shield within concave five petaled rosette		Dimashq	Balog 1964:162, No. 261		139117
28*	128	1244/1	2.43	17 × 17	الناصر [الملك]	Same		Same	Same		139121
29	103	1020/4		20 × 17	Same	Same		Same	Same		139066
30	128	1230/1	1.93	15 × 14	In a center, circle: محمد	In center: [---] لا اله الا الله [---]			Balog 1964:152, No. 230a		139120

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
31	103	1020/9	1.83	15 × 14	Same	Illegible			Balog 1964:152, No. 230	Clipped?	139069
32	122	1142/2	1.16	14 × 13	Illegible	Shield divided by horizontal bands in three segments; central band is bendy to right			Balog 1964:157, No. 245		139092
33	128	1197	1.98	15 × 14	الناصرين [المنصور]	Hexagram composed of two interwoven triangles			Balog 1964:161, No. 257		139113
34	108	1143/1	0.96	16 × 14	الناصر	Illegible					139076
Al-Šāliḥ 'Imād al-Dīn Ismā'īl (AH 743–746 / 1342–1345 CE), <i>faḥs</i>											
35	103	1020	2.91	20 × 20	In center: اسماعيل/الملك الصلاح/ بن محمد	In center: ضرب دمشق/ في سنة ثلاث و اربعين/ وسبعماية	1342/3	Dimashq	Balog 1964:A3, No. 287		139062
Al-Nāṣir Nāṣir al-Dīn Hasan, 1st reign (AH 748–752 / 1347–1351 CE), <i>faḥs</i>											
36	103	1020/1	2.26	20 × 20	In center: [بن محمد] الملك الناصر [حسن] [---]	In center: سنة حسين	1349/50	Tripoli	Balog 1964:187, No. 329		139063
Al-Ashraf Nāṣir al-Dīn Sha'ban II (AH 764–778 / 1363–1377 CE), <i>faḥs</i>											
37	103	1020/8	2.24	18 × 17	Field divided in three segments In center: الملك الاشرف	Field divided in three segments In center: [---] وسبعماية ل [---]/	1368– 1369/70	Dimashq	Balog 1964:120, No. 454–457		139068
38	120	1107	2.40	18 × 18	Triangle with central circle within: ب حر الاشرف	Illegible	1366–1377	Same	Balog 1970:143, No. 459a		139090
39	114	1078/3	1.14	16 × 16	In margin: السلطان الملك الاشرف]	Fish to r. Above: بجمة Below: حرب	1373–1376	Hamah	SNAT 1998:48, No. 608		139083

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
Al-Šālih Šalah al-Dīn Hajjī II, 2nd reign (AH 791–792 / 1389–1390 CE), fals											
40	103	1020/2	2.41	18 × 18	Field divided in three Segments: المصورر / السلطان [الملك] [...]	In margin: (?) تسمين	7[9]	Dimashq	Balog 1964:264, No. 532		139064
Al-Zāhir Sayf al-Dīn Barqūq, 2nd reign (AH 792–801 / 1390–1399 CE), fals											
41*	114	1078/2	1.44	18 × 17	الملك [---] الظاهر	Eagle, head to r.	1389– 1395/792– 798	Hamah	SNAT 1998:50, No. 670		139082
42	114	1078/1	2.89	23 × 19	[...] بر[فرق]	Illegible	1390–1399	Dimashq	Balog 1964:266, No. 589		139081
43	108	1143/3	1.07	15 × 13	Illegible	[...] بمشق	Same	Same	Balog 1964:266, No. 589(?)		139078
Al-Nāṣir Nāṣir al-Dīn Abū al-Sa'adāt Faraj, 2nd reign (AH 809–815 / 1406–1412 CE), fals											
44	105	1947	2.26	20 × 19	السلطان الملك الناصر فرج: في In circle: لا إله إلا الله محمد [...]	[...] لا إله إلا الله محمد [...]	1406–1412	Dimashq	Cf. Balog 1964:237, No. 631	Variant(?)	139073
Mamluk (14th c.), fals											
45	116	1080/2	2.62	16 × 16	Hexagon	Hexagon	First half 14th c.		Balog 1964:168, No. 272		139089
46	103	1020/12	0.65	13 × 9	Illegible	Illegible	Mid-14th c.				139071
47	128	1217/2	2.34	17 × 16	Same	Same	Second half 14th c.				139116
48	102	1018	3.95	20 × 16	السلطان ---	Same	Same				139061
49	107	1045	1.59	15 × 15	السلطان الملك	Same	End of 14th c.				139074
50	124	1146/1	1.52	14 × 13	الملك	Same	Same				139095
51	124	1146/2	3.72	16 × 15	Hexagram within inscription	Same	Same				139096

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
52	128	1230	1.75	22 × 22	السلطان / ن	Same	Same				139119
53	108	1143/2	0.63	20 × 20	السلطان	Same	Same				139077
54	103	1020/10	2.99	20 × 18	Illegible	Same	Same				139070
55	114	1078/4	1.49	18 × 18	Same	Same	Same				139084
56	114	1078/5	2.82	20 × 18	Same	Same	Same				139085
57		1155	1.32	17 × 16	المالك	Same	Same				139123
58	103	1020/3	3.21	20 × 19	السلطان الملك	Same	Same				139065
59	103	1020/14	0.46	18 × 12	Illegible	Same	Same			Cut	139072
60	114	1078/6	1.56	13 × 10	Same	Same	14th-15th c.			Fragment	139086
61	124	1146/3	1.08	15 × 11	Same	فأ	Same				139097
62	116	1080	1.89	17 × 16	Same	Illegible	Same				139088
63	128	119	1.64	17 × 17	Same	Same	Same				139118

NOTES

¹ The IAA Coin Data-base currently includes some 250 coins of identified thirteenth century Mamluk rulers. The majority of these consist of fulus of Baybars (1260–1277).

² See, for example, the Mamluk coin assemblage from the excavations at the Western Wall Plaza in Jerusalem (2005–2009), which will be published in the future by Robert Kool.

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