

JERUSALEM, HA-NEVI'IM STREET: THE COINS

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One-hundred and eleven coins were uncovered in the 2007 and 2008 excavations on 25 Ha-Nevi'im Street in Jerusalem (see Sulimani 2020); forty-nine of these, all bronze, were identified (see catalogue below). The excavation uncovered architectural remains of the two main construction phases at the site, from the Byzantine and the Ottoman periods.

A third of the identified coins (Nos. 1–16), however, antedate these dates, and clearly reflect activity in that part of Jerusalem from the second century BCE to the first century CE. Almost all of the ceramic and glass finds from the excavations seem to derive from fill material brought to the site, apparently from somewhere nearby, to level the area prior to construction and to form the floor beddings of a large Byzantine-period structure constructed at the site. This can explain the earlier finds.

However, this is not the first excavation in the vicinity that produced relatively large numbers of coins of these centuries. An excavation on Monbaz Street, c. 100 m to the southwest of 25 Ha-



Fig. 1. Coins.

Nevi'im Street, presents the same picture: “building remains from the Byzantine and late Ottoman periods, as well as small finds from the Second Temple (late second century BCE – first century CE)” (Sion and Rapuano 2018:1). In the 25 Ha-Nevi'im Street excavations, 15 coins dating from the Second Temple period (Nos. 1–15) were found, while at the Monbaz Street excavation 21 coins of this period—comprising half of the identified coins—were uncovered. At both sites the coins are evidence of an earlier occupation that left no architectural remains, and in both cases coins from the first century BCE were more numerous than coins from the first century CE (Ariel 2018).

The earliest coin (No. 1) may relate to another phenomena that has been recently identified in sites in this part of the city and further to the northwest: accupation levels that date from the period of Antiochus VII's siege of Jerusalem (Ariel, forthcoming). As for the bulk of the finds, which is later in date, one possibility is that it derives from some nearby Second Temple-period settlement outside the Jerusalem city walls. However, it is equally possible that the source of the debris is accumulations of garbage dumped out of the city from over the ‘Third Wall’—as that city wall and maybe even the Psephinus Tower along the wall seem to have been not far away (Avi-Yonah 1968:106). Dumping garbage over city walls was common in antiquity, and, centuries later, the debris would have been a ready source of constructional material.

Of the 27 Byzantine-period coins (Nos. 17–43), 22 come from contexts that are associated with the large, peristyle building. Two of these were found in walls or very near them: in W6 (No. 35) and W7 (No. 40); the latter—a *follis* of Maurice (586/7 CE)—suggests that the building was constructed in the late sixth century CE at the very earliest. The rest of the coins were found either in the bedding of the courtyard's floor or in the fills under the bedding and in the surrounding peristyles. These include several fifth–sixth century CE coins (Nos. 33, 34, 36–38) and a sixth-century CE cast imitation of an Alexandrian *dodecanummia* (No. 42); a very similar coin was found in a fill that abutted from the outside the foundation of the northern wall of the building (No. 43). These coins corroborate the late Byzantine-period date of the structure, a conclusion which arises from both the ceramic (see Sulimani 2020: Figs. 14–16) and the glass (see Winter 2020) finds uncovered in the excavation.

Three coins date from the time span between the Byzantine and the Ottoman periods of occupation at the site: a single coin from each of the Umayyad, Ayyūbid and Mamlūk dynasties (Nos. 44–46). Coin No. 46, a Mamlūk *fals*, is obviously intrusive, as it was found in the Byzantine floor makeup. The other two are unstratified.

Three Ottoman coins (Nos. 47–49) were not found in Areas B, C and E, where remains of the Ottoman building were uncovered, but rather, unexpectedly, in Area A.

CATALOGUE¹

Cat. No.	Locus	Area & Reg. No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
							Seleucids					
1	128	A1079	2.31	13	↑	Diademed, radiate head r. [---] Antiochus IV (175–173/2 BCE)	[---] Veiled and draped female figure, stg. facing, holding long scepter or torch		'Akko-Prolemais	SC II/1:92, No. 1479	Serrated	119618
							Hasmoneans					
2	137	A1100	0.95	13×17		[---] Anchor in circle	Alexander Jannaeus (104–76 BCE) [---] Eight-pointed star in border of dots	80/79 BCE	Jerusalem	<i>TJC</i> :210, Subgroups L1–6		119628
							Unclear Hasmonean ruler					
3	135	A1104	2.32	16	↑	In wreath: [---]/[---]/[---]⌈[---]⌋/⌈[---]⌋/⌈[---]⌋ [---]	Double cornucopias with pomegranate between horns		Same			119630
4	163	A1039	1.68	15	↙	[---]/[---]⌈[---]⌋/⌈[---]⌋/⌈[---]⌋ [---]	Same		Same			119639
5	313	B2043	1.62	14		[---]/[---]/[---]/[---]	Same		Same			119645
6	314	B2044	2.07	15	↑	[---]/[---]/[---]/[---]	Same		Same			119647
7	126	A1067	1.59	12	↑	[---]/[---]/[---]/[---]	Same		Same			119616
8	121	A1063	1.06	12	↑	[---]/[---]/[---]/[---]	Same		Same			116613
9	112	A1038	2.78	15		-	-		Same		Unstruck flan	119609
10	112	A1038	1.57	14		-	-		Same		Same	119610
							Herod (37–4 BCE)					
11	313	B2043	1.59	15		[---] Anchor	Illegible	24–15 BCE	Same	Cf. <i>TJC</i> :222–223, No. 59; Ariel and Fontanille 2012:63, Type 15	Uncertain identification	119646

¹ Coins bearing an asterisk are illustrated in Fig. 1.

CATALOGUE

Cat. No.	Locus	Area & Reg. No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
						Governor under Tiberius (14–37 CE)						
12	138	A1110	2.4	17	←	In wreath: T[IB]KAI/CAP	Palm branch; in fields: IOV-Λ A L-Δ	Year 4=17/8	Same	<i>TJ/C</i> :257, No. 327		119623
13	107	A1025	1.50	15	↑	T[IB]KAI/CAP Same	Palm branch; in fields: [- -] [- -] [-] [-]	17/18–24/5	Same	Cf. <i>TJ/C</i> :257, No. 327		119607
14	151	A1140	2.10	15	↑	[TIBEP]IOY KAICAP OC Lituus	In wreath: LIZ	Year 17= 30/1	Same	<i>TJ/C</i> :258, No. 333		119636
						Nero (54–68 CE)						
15	504	C3011	1.67	15	↘	Within wreath: NEP/WNO/C	E KAIC-[- -] <i>retrograde</i> Palm branch	Year 5=58/9	Same	<i>TJ/C</i> :260, No. 345n		119649
						Roman Provincial						
16	144	A1125	2.76	15	↑	[- -] Bust r.	[- -] Bust r.	2nd–3rd c.			Decapolis fabric	119632
						Fourth–Fifth c. CE						
17	150	A1149	0.45	12	↑	[- -] Pearl-diademed, draped bust r.	[- -] Soldier spearing horseman	351–361		Cf. <i>LRBC</i> II:87, No. 2039		119635
18	113	A1031	1.43	11	↑	[- -] Same	[- -] Victory r., holding wreath	364–375		Cf. <i>LRBC</i> II:100, No. 2663		119612
19	137	A1100	1.09	8	↑	DN AR[CADIVS PF AVG] Same	Within wreath: VOTX/MVLT/XX; in ex.: ANA	383		<i>LRBC</i> II:102, No. 2768	Arcadius	119627
20	112	A1041	0.70	11	↑	[- -] Same	[- -] Victory advancing l, dragging captive and holding trophy	383–395		Cf. <i>LRBC</i> II:89, No. 2183		119611
21	137	A1096	1.14	12	↑	[- -] Same	[- -] Same	Same		Same		119629
22	156	A1156	0.68	13	↑	[- -] Same	[CONCO]R-D A AVG- - -] Cross	395–408		Cf. <i>LRBC</i> II:90, No. 2207		119637

CATALOGUE

Cat. No.	Locus	Area & Reg. No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
23*	159	A1165	2.39	18	↓	[--] Helmated, cuirassed bust facing, holding spear in r., and spear in l.	[CONCOR-DIA AVGG Constantinopolis seated facing; holding spear and victoriola; by r. foot, prow; in ex.: SMK[.]	400-402	Cyzicus	LRBC II:98, No. 2586		119638
24	708	D4034	1.05	11	↑	[--] Bust r.	[--] Figure stg.?	4th c.				119651
25	302	B2015	0.41	8 × 16	↑	[--] Same	[--] Same	Same				119643
26	127	A1074	0.40	15		Illegible	[--] Three emperors facing	402-408		Cf. LRBC II:90, No. 2214		119617
27	127	A1082	0.42	10	↑	[--] Draped bust r.	[--] Victory? advancing l.	1st half 5th c.			Imitation?	119621
28	103	A1012	0.54	8		Illegible	Monogram	457-450?		Cf. LRBC II:90, No. 2250	Marcian?	119605
29	139	A1130	0.72	8 × 12		Same	Same	Same		Same	Same	119626
30	131	A1103	1.39	12		[--] Bust r.	Illegible	4th-5th c.				119619
31	106	A1032	0.38	12		[--] Bust r. within circle	Ezana or one of his successors (imitation) [--] Cross within circle	Mid-5th- mid 6th c.	Egypt	Bijovsky 2012:148-149	Cast	119606
32	317	B2057	0.24	8		Illegible	Fifth-Sixth c. CE Letters within wreath	5th-6th c.				119648
33	150	A1131	0.55	9		[--] Bust r.	Illegible	Same				119633
34	150	A1145	0.49	9		[--] Same	Same	Same				119634
35	W6	A1179	0.76	8		[--] Same	Same	Same				119650
36	125	A1064	0.91	9		[--] Same	Same	Same				119614
37	115	A1037	0.32	10		[--] Bust r.?	Within double line border: [--]	Same				119620

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Cat. No.	Locus	Area & Reg. No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
38	112	A1027	0.32	10		[- -] Head or bust r.	Illegible	Same			Cast	119608
39	302	B2014	3.67	16	↓	[- -] Diademed, cuirassed bust r., with paludamentum	Justinian I (527–565 CE), Decanumium I To l.: A/N/N/O; in ex.: N	540s–565	Nicomedia?	Cf. <i>DOC</i> 1:122, No. 156		119642
40*	706	D4035	11.75	28 × 32	6	[-]N mAVR[]C–TIBER PPAVC Cuirassed and helmeted bust facing, holding <i>globus cruciger</i> and shield.	Maurice (582–602 CE), Follis M Above, cross; to l.: A/N/N/O and r.: 4 beneath: Γ; in ex.: CON	586/7	Constantin.	<i>DOC</i> 1:305, No. 28c		119653
41	308	B2031	3.15	19 × 23	0	[- -] Bust r.	Sixth c. CE K	End 6th–7th c.			Half <i>follis</i>	119644
42	145	A1125	1.16	13	3	[- -] Same	I+B In ex.: AΛEΞ	6th c.	Alexandria	Cf. <i>MIBE</i> 152, No. 165	<i>Dodecanumium</i> , cast	119631
43	707	D4032	0.38	12	9	[- -] Same	[- -] In ex.: A[ΛEΞ]	Same	Same	Same	Same	119654
44*	900	E5000	4.64	22		لاله الاله ورحمه محمد رسول الله To r., palm branch	Umayyad, fals	697–750	Ramla	<i>SICA</i> 2: No. 1202		119652
45	302	B2013	2.79	19 × 23		الملك الكا [- -] Ayyūbids Al-Kāmil I Nāsir al-Dīn Muḥammad (AH 615–635/1218–1238 CE), <i>fals</i>	[- -] [- -] Unclear Mamlūk ruler, <i>fals</i>		Dimashq	Balog 1980:169, No. 465		119641
46	114	A1038	2.48	20 × 22		Illegible	Illegible	14th c.				119622

CATALOGUE

Cat. No.	Locus	Area & Reg. No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	Notes	IAA No.
							Uncertain Ottoman ruler, <i>manghir</i>					
47	141	A1119	9.78	20		مصر [- -]	Arabesque ornament	AH 982– 1012/1574– 1603	Misr al- Mahrusa	Cf. Kabaklarli 1998:444, No. 14- Mşr-03		119624
48	125	A1064	2.71	13		مصر [- -]	Illegible	16th–17th c.	Same			119615
49	139	A1121				Illegible	Cross-hatching	Same				119625

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