

COINS FROM GIV'ATI PARKING LOT, JERUSALEM

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One hundred and seventy-seven coins were discovered during the excavation in Giv'ati Parking Lot (see Tchekhanovets, this volume), most of them badly preserved. Forty-four of the coins, all made of bronze, were identifiable and are presented in the catalogue in chronological and typological order; 91 coins were unidentifiable and another 42 were not cleaned due to budget limitations.¹

As is often the case with coin assemblages of the fifth–sixth centuries CE in the Southern Levant, the Giv'ati assemblage included old coins that remained in circulation for centuries after their date of issue (Bijovsky 2012:99–102): a Seleucid coin (No. 1), a Hasmonean coin (No. 2), a *pruta* of the First Jewish Revolt (No. 3) and seven unidentifiable fourth-century CE coins (Nos. 4–10). The use of such coins during the Byzantine period was due to their similarity in size and fabric to the *minimi* of that time.

Coin Nos. 11 and 12 are crude imitations of imperial issues that circulated widely in the Byzantine-period Southern Levant (Bijovsky 2012:106–118). Coin No. 14 is a rare *nummus* of emperor Basiliscus dated to 475–476 CE. Coin No. 15 was struck in Carthage; it could either be a Proto-Vandalic issue dated to 455–487 CE, or a coin of Justinian I dated to 552–565 CE. A more precise identification of this coin was not possible as the obverse was illegible.

A large group of very thin cast low-quality *minimi*, most of which were illegible (Nos. 16–28), could be roughly dated to 450–550 CE (Bijovsky 2012:128–129). Those that could be read with certainty provided useful information concerning the chronology of the site. In particular, it is noteworthy that the coins found above the Byzantine-period street (L928) were not later than the reign of Justinian I (up to the mid-sixth century CE).

Coins dated to the sixth–seventh centuries CE include a number of *nummi* and multiples of the *nummus*. The earliest of these are two coins of Anastasius I, bearing his imperial monogram (Nos. 29–30). Six coins of emperor Justinian I are all *nummi* minted in Carthage: a *Vota* type coin dated to 539/540 CE (No. 31); a *chi-rho* type coin (No. 32); a coin bearing a cross with two pellets (No. 33); and three Vandalic *nummi* of the well-known palm tree type

¹ The coins were cleaned at the IAA laboratories by Ilya Reznitsky and were photographed by Clara Amit of the IAA.



Fig. 1. Coins.

(Nos. 34–36). The latter three specimens belong to an anepigraphic type, considered to be an anonymous issue struck in Carthage during the reign of Justinian I (Bijovsky 2012:317–321). A few coins of larger denominations were identified, comprising two poorly preserved *folles* dated to 512–518 CE (Nos. 37–38); a worn *dodecanummium* from Alexandria (No. 39); a local imitation of a *pentanummium* of the *chi-rho* type (No. 40);² and an obliterated *nummus* (No. 41).



² For the place of production of this coin and its dating, see Bijovsky 2012:291–297.

CATALOGUEⁱ





Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
							SELEUCIDS(?) Uncertain				
1	10720	948	1.62	12		Head r.	Obliterated	2nd c. BCE			162851
							HASMONEAN Alexander Jannaeus (103–76 BCE)—<i>Pruta</i>				
2	10607	928	0.75	11		Anchor within circle	Star	80/79–76 BCE	Jerusalem	<i>TJC</i> :121, Nos. L6–L17	162842
							FIRST JEWISH REVOLT <i>Pruta</i>				
3*	10519	937	2.20	17	↓	Amphora	שנת שמיים Vine leaf	חרות ציון	Jerusalem	<i>TJC</i> :241, No. 196	162848
							LATE ROMAN 378–383 CE				
4	10323	924	0.85	10 × 12		[---]AVG Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	Within wreath: VOT[---/MVLTI]X[---] Mintmark illegible	378–383 CE		Cf. <i>LRBC</i> II:101, Nos. 2729–2736	162817
							Fourth Century CE				
5	10533	W1017	1.31	11		[---] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	Obliterated				162856
6	10687	948	1.26	12		Same	Same				162853
7	10584	928	0.75	14		Same	Same			Half coin	162827
8	10630	W1022	0.72	14		Same	Same				162857
							Fourth–Fifth Centuries CE				
9	10470	928	0.79	10		[---] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	Obliterated				162825

ⁱ All coins are bronze. Coins bearing an asterisk are illustrated in Fig. 1.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
10	10584	928	0.23	8 × 10		Same	Same				162829
						Imitative Issue—<i>Nummus</i>					
11	10584	928	0.17	8		Obliterated	Cross	First half of 5th c. CE		Bijovsky 2012:115, No. 8	162832
12*	10584	928	0.59	10 × 12		Same	Victory stg. l., holding wreath	Same		Bijovsky 2012:109, No. 2	162828
						Fifth Century CE					
13	10485	928	0.58	8		[--]VS? Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped	Obliterated				162837
						Basiliscus—<i>Nummus</i>					
14	10485	928	0.71	8		Obliterated		475–476 CE	Constantinople	<i>LRBC</i> II:91, No. 2283	162839
						Proto-Vandalic or Justinian I—<i>Nummus</i>					
15*	10584	928	0.21	8		Bust to r. or frontal(?)		455–487 or 552–565 CE	Carthage	Bijovsky 2012:143, Fig. 29 (Proto-Vandalic); 244, Fig. 83 (Justinian I)	162830
						450–550 CE—<i>Nummus</i>					
16	10485	928	0.38	10		Obliterated	Monogram(?)				162838
17	10583	928	0.33	9		Same	Same				162847
18	10687	948	0.13	8		Same	Same			Cast; Bijovsky 2012: 128–129	162852
19	10469	924	0.66	10		Same	Same			Same	162818
20	10576	928	0.38	10		Same	Same			Same	162824
21	10485	928	0.28	9		Same	Same			Same	162836

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
22	10583	928	0.24	9		Same	Same			Same	162845
23*	10584	928	0.20	9		Same	Same			Same	162833
24	10584	928	0.20	10		Same	Same			Same	162831
25	10661	928	0.19	9		Same	Same			Same	162840
26	10485	928	0.18	8		Same	Same			Same	162823
27	10576	928	0.15	8		Same	Same			Same	162826
28	10485	928	0.13	8		Same	Same			Same	162822
						BYZANTINE Anastasius I (491–518 CE)— <i>Nummus</i>					
29	10583	928	0.56	9		Obliterated			Constantinople	DOC I:11, No. 15	162844
30	10661	928	0.52	7		Same	Same		Same	Same	162841
						Justinian I (527–565 CE) <i>Nummus</i>					
31	10583	928	0.72	8		Obliterated	[NOT]/[X]III	539/540 CE	Carthage	Bijovsky 2012:239, Fig. 78	162843
32	10485	928	0.64	10		[---] Bust r., draped and cuirassed		538–542 CE	Same	Bijovsky 2012:237, Fig. 77	162835
33*	10378	928	0.50	9		Obliterated		552–565 CE	Same	Bijovsky 2012:244–245	162820
						Vandalic Anonymous <i>Nummus</i>					
34*	10474	928	0.43	7 × 9	↓	Bust r., draped and cuirassed		534–565 CE	Same	Bijovsky 2012:317–321	162821
35	10583	928	0.23	6	1	Obliterated	Same	Same	Same	Same	162846
36*	10470	924	0.70	8 × 10		Same	Same	Same	Same	Same	162819

CATALOGUE (cont.)

Cat. No.	Basket	Locus	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date	Mint	References and Notes	IAA No.
							BYZANTINE Uncertain—<i>Follis</i>				
37	10452	924	14.96	30	↓	[---]VS PP AV Bust r., draped and cuirassed	M to r., cross. All other details illegible	512–538 CE			162816
38	10317	920	6.28	27	↓	Same	M to l., star. All other details illegible	Same			162815
							<i>Dodecanumnumium</i>				
39	10295	W1016	1.44	16	↓	Obliterated	I + B ? In exergue: [AΛEΞ]	6th c. CE	Alexandria	Very worn	162855
							Local Imitation <i>Pentanumnumium</i>				
40	10657	948	1.10	14		Obliterated	Ϟ ?	522–540 CE	Ashqelon(?)	Bijovsky 2012:291–297	162849
							<i>Nummus</i>				
41	10584	928	0.38	8		Obliterated	Obliterated	First half of 6th c. CE			162834
							Maurice Tiberius (578–582 CE) <i>Follis</i>				
42*	10635	948	10.83	28	↑	dN mAV–R C PP AV Bust facing, holding globe	M to l.: ANNO; above, cross; to r. date: II; below: Γ; in exergue: CON	583/584 CE	Constantinople	DOC 1:303, No. 22c	162854
43*	10315	920	10.57	28	8	Same	M to l.: ANNO; above, cross; to r. date: μ; below: €; in exergue: CON	587/588 CE	Same	DOC 1:305, No. 29	162814
							Arab-Byzantine <i>Dodecanumnumium</i> imitation				
44*	10721	948	1.68	10 × 12		Imperial figure stg. facing, holding globe and long cross	I , on globe(?) [B] Exergue inscription out of flan	c. 642–705 CE	Fustat	Cf. Awad 1972:116, Type IV(b); very small flan	162850

Two *folles* of Maurice Tiberius minted in Constantinople were identified: No. 42 is dated to 583/584 CE—it was discovered in an Umayyad-period context related to a metallurgical workshop, wherein a number of Byzantine-period metal items including objects of a liturgical nature were recycled (L920); No. 43 was struck in 587/588 CE.

The latest identifiable coin is a rare Arab-Byzantine imitation of a *dodecanummium* attributed to the mint of Fustat in Egypt (No. 44). This specimen was particularly difficult to identify as it was badly struck, using dies that were much larger than the small and oddly-shaped flan for both the obverse and reverse. Its identification was based on the clumsy and linear style of the dies and the fabric, which are characteristic of such Arab-Byzantine imitations, dated roughly to the second half of the seventh century CE (Awad 1972:116; Foss 2008:101).³ This coin provides a *terminus post quem* for dating the destruction debris that overlay the Byzantine-period street (L948).

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³ My thanks to Ingrid and Wolfgang Schulze for confirming the identification of this coin.

