

THE COINS FROM MAZOR

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Twenty-eight coins were recovered from Areas C and E2 at Mazor (see Taxel and Amit, this volume),¹ nine were unidentifiable.

The earliest coin (Cat. No. 1), unfortunately poorly preserved, is probably related to one of the many Hellenistic-period sites that flourished in the vicinity (Taxel 2006; see Ariel, forthcoming). A coin (Cat. No. 2) issued by Herod the Great can be similarly understood, as some of the Hellenistic-period sites at Mazor continued to be settled into the first century CE (e.g., Area A2, see Ariel, forthcoming), where a coin of Herod's son Archelaus was found. Another coin of Archelaus was noted in nearby Ḥorbat Zikhrin (Fischer 1983:31). Closeby is the city Antipatris, founded by Herod, where a hoard of mostly Herodian coins that were dated to Archelaus' ethnarchy were uncovered (Ariel and Fontanille 2012:129–130).

The earliest architectural remains found during the excavations are from the Byzantine period. Coin Nos. 3–7, dated to the fourth century CE, are well-preserved. Coin Nos. 8–11, dating to the fifth, and perhaps sixth centuries CE, although less well-preserved, indicate that the Byzantine-period stratum was long-lived.

The relatively small number of coins from the post-Byzantine periods—two from the fifteenth century CE, two from the seventeenth–eighteenth centuries, two from the third quarter of the nineteenth century and two from just before World War I—suggest that the site was occupied or possibly only visited in discrete time periods. Based on the time span of these coins, it is impossible to determine whether the coins were deposited while visiting the site, or are evidence of settlement. The historical reconstructions cited by the excavators indicate that by 1596 CE there were seven established households in al-Muzayri'ah and that the village was probably deserted thereafter, to be reoccupied in the eighteenth century until 1948. This seems to suggest that the fifteenth-century Mamlūk *fulūs* predate the village, which is not unreasonable: one of the two Mamlūk coins (Cat. No. 13) was found in a trench (L516) dug into Byzantine-period Building I. From the associated ceramic finds, this coin was deposited in the trench filling well after its date of issue.

¹ The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratories by Lena Kuperschmidt.

CATALOGUEⁱ

No.	Locus	Reg. No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References	Notes	IAA Nos.
Autonomous?												
1	337	52	2.07	10 × 12		Head?	Figure? Galley?	3rd–2nd c. BCE			Thick flan	76546
Herod (37–4 BCE)												
2	340	606	1.46	14	→	[- - -] Anchor	Double cornucopia; between horns, caduceus		Jerusalem	<i>TJC</i> :222–223, No. 59	<i>Rev.</i> : 3 dots visible	76539
House of Constantine												
3	529	48	2.76	18	↓	VRB[S–ROM]A Helmets, cuirassed bust of Roma I.	She-wolf nursing Romulus and Remus; above, two stars; in ex.: SMN[.]	330–335	Antioch	<i>LRBC</i> I:26, No. 1120		76547
4	Fill south of L.529	51	2.28	19	↓	[- - -] Laureate (with rosettes), cuirassed bust r.	[GL]JOR–[I]A EX[ER]C–[I]TVS] Two soldiers stg. facing, with spears and shields; between them, two standards; in ex.: CONSB	Same	Constantinople	Cf. <i>LRBC</i> I:24, No. 1005		76550
5	529	49	1.31	16	↓	[CON]STAN–[S PF]AVG Laureate (with rosettes), cuirassed bust r., with paludamentum	VIC[TORIAE DD AV]GG Q NN Two victories vis-à-vis, each holding wreath and palm	347–348	Rome?	Cf. <i>RIC</i> VIII:253, No. 78	Constans I	76548
6	332	639	1.94	16 × 18	↓	[DN CONST]AN–[T]IVS PF A[V]G Pearl–diademed, draped bust r.	FEL TEMP RE–PARA[TIO] Virtus spearing fallen horseman; in ex.: CONS[.]	351–354	Constantinople	<i>LRBC</i> II:87, No. 2039		76538
7	346	630	1.26	12	↑	[- - -] Pearl–diademed, draped bust r.	[- - -] Victory advancing l., dragging captive and holding trophy	383–395		Cf. <i>LRBC</i> II:89, No. 2183		76540

ⁱ The coins are arranged chronologically, according to coin-types. All the coins are bronze, except Nos. 14–17, which are debased silver, and Nos. 18, 19, which are copper-nickel.

CATALOGUE (cont.)

No.	Locus	Reg. No.	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Axis	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	References	Notes	IAA Nos.
Fourth–Sixth Centuries CE												
8	371	678	0.94	10		Illegible	[- - -] Stg. figure	4th–5th c.				76541
9	376	691	0.42	11		Same	[- - -]/[- - -]/[- - -] Within wreath	Same				76542
10	529	50	0.47	10		[- - -] Bust r.	[- - -] Within wreath	5th c.				76549
11	335	46	0.78	8		Illegible	Inscription or other object within circle	5th–6th c.?			Date uncertain	76545
Uncertain Mamlūk Ruler, <i>Fals</i>												
12	403	44	2.42	12 × 19		Illegible	Illegible	15th c.				76543
13	516	1063	3.95	17 × 21		Same	Same	Same				76544
Ottomans												
Uncertain Ruler, <i>Para</i>?												
14	306	568	0.68	17		Illegible	Illegible	17th–18th c.			Debased silver; pierced	
15	518	1074	0.44	15		Same	Same	Same			Same	
Abd al-ʿAziz (AH 1277–1293/1861–1876 CE)												
16	Surface	1071	4.96	27		Tughra	Illegible		Qustantiniye?	Cf. Pere 1968:269, No. 951	Debased silver; <i>On paralik</i>	
17	323	585	2.31	23		Illegible	Same		Same	Cf. Pere 1968:269, No. 952	Debased silver; Beş paralik	
Mehmed V (1909–1918 CE)												
18			2.48	19		Illegible	Illegible	1909/10	Qustantiniye	Pere 1968:291, 1062	Copper-Nickel; On para; pierced	
19	527	1116	1.75	16		Same	Same	Same	Same	Pere 1968:291, 1063	Copper-Nickel; Beş para; pierced	

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