

## THE COINS FROM BEN GAMLI'EL STREET, YAFO (JAFFA)

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Seven coins were unearthed during the excavation on 10 Ben Gamli'el Street, located on the eastern edge of the Flea Market (see Arbel, this volume). Of these, four coins were identified—all were retrieved from Hellenistic Stratum III and date to the third–first centuries BCE.<sup>1</sup> These coins are an important addition to the more than 340 Persian- and Hellenistic-period coin finds excavated in Yafo over the past 60 years, reflecting the city's long and multi-layered history (Kool, in press).

The earliest datable coin find is a bronze *diobol* minted under Ptolemy I (367–283 BCE) in his newly founded capital, Alexandria, between 294 and 288 BCE (No. 1; Fig. 1). Another Ptolemaic coin is a small bronze *hemi-obol* (No. 2) found in association with a large Hellenistic-period mortarium within a soil accumulation (L129; see Arbel, this volume). The two remaining coins are small and barely identifiable bronzes. One is a Seleucid type, possibly depicting a standing figure (No. 3), while the other could only be generally described as “Hellenistic” (No. 4). These coins circulated at a time when the port city of Yafo was part of the Seleucid and Ptolemaic Empires, which operated a trade network along the Palestinian–Phoenician coast, in the third and second centuries BCE.

### CATALOGUE

1. Reg. No. 1050, L110, IAA 147437.

Ptolemy I, *diobol*, Alexandria, 288–283 BCE.

*Obv.*: Laureate head of Zeus r.

*Rev.*: Eagle l. on thunderbolt, wings open.

In field l: L/I

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<sup>1</sup> The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratories headed by Lena Kupferschmidt, and were photographed by Clara Amit of the IAA photography studio.



Æ, 18.09 g, 25 mm.

Cf. Svoronos: No. 275; *SNG Ptol.*: Pl. III: No. 76.

2. Reg. No. 1108, L129, IAA 147438.

Ptolemaic, *hemi-obol*, after 261 BCE.

*Obv.*: Diademed head r.

*Rev.*: Illegible.

Æ, 2.04 g, 14 mm. Hole-centered.

Cf. *SNG Ptol.*: Pl. XV: No. 445.

3. Reg. No. 2070, L203, IAA 147439.

Seleucid, third–first centuries BCE.

*Obv.*: Bust r.

*Rev.*: Figure stg. (?)

Æ, 4.53 g, 18 mm.

4. Reg. No. 1070, L118, IAA 147440.

Hellenistic, third–first centuries BCE.

*Obv.*: Bust r.

*Rev.*: Illegible.

Æ, 3.51 g, 14 mm.

## REFERENCES

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