

RECENT FINDS OF ARABIC GOLD COINS

1. Two troves of Arabic gold coins came to light recently in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The first contained dated dinars (not bearing the name of a mint) struck under the Umayyad and Abbasid Khalifats¹ and the second consisted of Fatimid coins² (Pl. V).

2. The following are the reigns of issue and the dates of the first group, the years being numbered, of course, according to the Hijra calendar :

Umayyad

'Abd-al-Malik ibn Marwan ; years 79 and 84.

Al Walid I ibn 'Abd-al-Malik ; years 87, 91 (2 copies) and 94.

Suleiman ibn 'Abd-al-Malik ; year 98.

'Omar ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz ; year 100.

Hisham ibn 'Abd-al-Malik ; years 112 (2 copies), 124 and 125.

Abbasid

Al Mansur ; years 139, 141, 142, 144 (2), 145, 149 (2), 151, 152 (2), 153 (4), 155, 158.

Al Mahdi ; years 159, 160 (3), 161, 162 (8), 164 (3), 165 (4), 167 (4), 168.

Ar Rashid ; year 171 (2).

The coin dated the 79th year Hijra is the earliest dated Arabic coin to have been found in Jordan, and judging from available records the first dated Arabic coin to be issued was in the same series of Dinars and bore reference to year 77. There are, of course, earlier Umayyad coins bearing the names of the khalifs under whom they were issued but without dates.

3. The Fatimid types consist of issues under three khalifs Al Mu'izz (3 coins), Al 'Aziz (3 coins), Al Hâkim (4 coins) (Pl. V, 1-5).

The three coins of Al Mu'izz were of the following type :

Obverse, in three circles :

محمد رسول الله ارسله بالهدى ودين الحق ليظهر على الدين كله ولو كره المشركون
وعلى افضل الوصيين ووزير خير المرسلين
لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

¹ Found by workmen digging foundations for shops in the main square of Amman: they were apparently in a small pot, unfortunately broken.—G. L. H.

² Source of origin unknown.

Reverse, in three circles:

بسم الله ضرب هذا الدينر بمصر سنة اربع وستين وثلاث مائة
دعا الامام معد لتوحيد الاله اصمد
المعز لدين الله امير المؤمنين

(Struck in Egypt in the year 364 H.=A.D. 974-5.)

The second coin was probably minted at Al Mahdiya, while the mint of the third coin was illegible; the dates on both could not be deciphered.

The three coins of Al 'Aziz were all of the same type, as follows:

Obverse, in two circles:

محمد رسول الله ارسله بالهدى ودين الحق ليظهر على الدين كله ولو كره المشركون
لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله على خير صفوة الله

Reverse, in two lines:

بسم الله ضرب هذا الدينر بمصر سنة وسبعين وثلاث مائة
عبد الله ووليه نزار الامام العزيز بالله امير المؤمنين

(Struck in Egypt in the year 370+ H.=A.D. 980+.)

The other two coins were struck at Mansuriyah, one in the year 370+ and the second in the year 380+ H. The dates could not be read completely.

The four coins of Al Ḥākīm were all of one type:

Obverse, in two circles:

محمد رسول الله ارسله بالهدى ودين الحق ليظهر على الدين كله ولو كره المشركون
لا اله الا الله وحده لا شريك له

In the centre :

محمد رسول الله
على ولى الله

Reverse :

بسم الله ضرب هذا الدينر بمصر سنة سبع وتسعين وثلاث مائة
عبد الله ووليه المنصور ابو على الامام

In the centre :

الحاكم بامر الله
امير المؤمنين

(Struck in Egypt in the year 397 H.=A.D. 1007.)

The three other coins were of the same type, but their dates were illegible.

4. The coins in both troves consisted of known or what might be termed standard types.

5. About the same time a fine gold piece minted in the years 640 H.=A.D. 1242 at Madinat es Salam (Baghdad) by Al Musta'sim, the last Abbassid Khalif, also came to light (Pl. V, 6):

Obverse reads round:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ ضَرَبَ هَذَا الدِّينَرُ مَدِينَةَ السَّلَامِ سَنَةَ أَرْبَعِينَ وَسِتِّمِائَةَ

In the centre:

الإمام
لا إله إلا الله
وحدوه لا شريك له
المستعصم بالله
أمير المؤمنين
ينصر الله

Reverse reads round:

لِلَّهِ الْأَمْرُ مِنْ قَبْلِ وَمَنْ بَعْدَ يَوْمِئِذٍ يَفْرَحُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ بِنَصْرِ اللَّهِ

In the centre:

الحمد لله
محمد
رسول الله
صلى الله عليه
وسلم

Al Musta'sim was put to death by the Mongols under Hulagu in A.H. 656=A.D. 1258.

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