

A HOARD OF BYZANTINE GOLD COINS FROM AWARTA, NABLUS

THE coins described in this note came into my possession on the second day of my appointment as Inspector of Antiquities in Western Jordan, when I was feeling keenly my responsibility as the only representative of the Department of Antiquities. But this find of gold Byzantine coins was very encouraging, especially when H.M. King Abd Allah, with the Minister of Education, visited the Department to examine the coins. It seemed to be a propitious beginning to the union of Arab Palestine with Jordan, and I hope that the future of the country under this union may indeed be a golden age.

The exact circumstances of the discovery are not clear, but the coins were confiscated by the district police in Awarta village. The twenty-nine coins range in date from the reign of Phocas (A.D. 602-610) to that of Constantine IV (A.D. 668-685). Eighteen have the mint name of Constantinople, the others bear no mint. They were alleged to have been found in a lamp, which is of characteristic seventh century almond type with flat base. Filling and wick holes are rounded with a broad groove between; decoration is of strokes, dots, trellis and palm leaf; raised knob handle; red ware.

The lamp and a selection of the coins are illustrated on Pl. XV.

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PHOCAS A.D. 602-610

Solidi Minted at Constantinople

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| 1. DNFOCAS PERPAVC (Solidus).
Bust of Phocas, facing, with pointed beard; wears crown (with globus cr.) and armour; in r., globus cross, 4.30 grams. | VICTORIA AVGUE.
Victory in chiton and peplos standing facing; in r., long cross ending in a loop; in l., globus cr.; beneath CONOB. |
| *2. Same type, 4.35 grams. | Same type, but with H at the end of the inscription. |

HERACLIUS A.D. 610-641

Minted at Constantinople

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| *3. DNHRACLI USPPAVS (semissis).
Bust of Heraclius r., beardless; wearing diadem, paludamentum and cuirass, 2.15 grams. | VICTORIA AVGVI.
Cross potent on globus. |
| 4. Same type, 2.15 grams. | Same type, but with S at the end of the inscription. |

5. Same type, 1.30 grams (tremissis). Same type, but with CONOB beneath.
6. Same type, 1.45 grams. Same type, but with CONOB beneath.
7. Same type, 1.45 grams. Same type as No. 4.
8. Same type, 2.10 grams (semissis). Same type as No. 4.
9. Same type, 2.15 grams. Same type as No. 4.
10. ddNHERACLIUSETHERCONST (solidus). VICTORIA AVGUE.
Bust of Heraclius (on l.) with short beard, and bust of Heraclius Constantine (on r.); each wears crown with globus cr., paludamentum and cuirass; above, cross, 4.45 grams. Cross potent on three steps; beneath CONOB.
- *11. Same type, 4.35 grams. Same type.
- *12. Bust of Heraclius (on l.) with long moustache and beard, and bust of Heraclius Constantine (on r.) with whiskers, moustache and short beard; each wears crown with globus cross, paludamentum and cuirass; above, cross, 4.30 grams. Same type, but with I at the end of the inscription. Double impression.
13. Same type, 4.40 grams. Same type, but with B at the end of the inscription.
14. Heraclius in centre, Heraclius Constantine (on r.) and Heraclius (on l.); standing facing, each wearing long robes and holding globus cr. in r.; each wears crown and cross; Heraclius alone is bearded, 4.45 grams. VICTORIA AVGU.
Cross potent on three steps, beneath CONOB; on l. K, on r. E; at the end of the inscription Δ.
- *15. Same type, 4.35 grams. Same type, but on r. B, and EV at the end of the inscription.

CONSTANS II A.D. 641-646

16. DNCONSTANTINVSPPAV (semissis). VICTORIAAVGUS.
Bust of Constans II, r., beardless, wearing diadem, paludamentum and cuirass, 2.15 grams. Globus surmounted by cross potent.
17. Same type, 2.15 grams. Same type.
- *18. Same type, 2.15 grams. Same type.
19. Same type, 2.15 grams. Same type.
20. Same type, 1.40 grams (tremissis). VICTORIAAVGUS.
Cross potent, beneath CONOB.
- *21. dNCONSTANTINUSPPAVI (solidus). VICTORIAAVGUS.
Bust of Constans II, with short beard and whiskers, facing; wears crown and globus cr., paludamentum and cuirass, 4.40 grams. Cross potent on three steps, beneath CONOB

- *22. **DNCONSTANTINUSCCONSTAN.** **VICTORIA AVGUS.**
 Bust of Constans II, with long beard and moustache, and smaller bust of Constantine IV, beardless; facing, wearing paludamentum, cuirass and crown, 4.30 grams.
 Cross potent on three steps, beneath CONOB.
23. Same type, 4.35 grams. Same type, but with O at end of the inscription.
24. Same type, 4.35 grams. Same type, but with Δ at end of the inscription.
25. Same type, 4.20 grams. Same type, but with S at end of the inscription.
26. **DNCONS TINUST.** **VICTORIA AVGUS.**
 Bust of Constans II, with long beard and moustache, and smaller bust of Constantine IV, beardless; each wearing paludamentum and cuirass; between them a small cross. Constans wears a helmet with globus cr.; and Constantine a crown with globus cr., 4.35 grams.
 Globus surmounted by a long cross; on l., Heraclius; and on r., Tiberius; each beardless, stands facing; wears long robe and crown with cross, and holds in r. globus cr.; beneath CONOB.
- *27. Same type, 4.25 grams. Same type, but cross potent on three steps, and Δ at the end of the inscription.
- *28. Bust of Constans II, r., beardless, wearing diadem, paludamentum and cuirass, 2.15 grams (semmissis). **VICTORIAAVGUS.**
DNCONSTANTINUSCCONS
 Cross potent surmounting globus.
 (N.B.—This coin does not appear in the British Museum Catalogue. The general type is that of a semmissis struck at Constantinople, but the inscription on the obverse is that used for the series showing bust of Constans II and Constantine IV.)

CONSTANTINE IV A.D. 668

- *29. Bust of Constantine IV, beardless, facing; wears armour and helmet with plumes; in r., spear held transversely in l., shield, 4.45 grams. **VICTORIAAVGUS.**
 Cross potent on three steps; on l., Heraclius; on r., Tiberius; each is beardless, stands facing, wears long robes and crown and holds globus cr., beneath CONOB.
- dN TINVSCCONST.
 (N.B.—This obverse inscription does not appear in British Museum Catalogue.)

* Numbers marked * are illustrated on Pl. XIV.

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