

## A HOARD OF OMMAYAD DINARS FROM ORIF

This hoard was found accidentally on the 29th., of December 1960 by one of the children of Orif<sup>1</sup>, Nablus District. While playing with his friends, he chanced upon a pottery vase in which he found golden coins, but immediately his playmates attacked him with the idea of sharing with him the find. Nineteen coins<sup>1</sup> were later seized by the Officer Commanding Nablus Su-District from six of the local inhabitants and were received by the Department of Antiquities on the 31st., of July 1961. The pottery vase was not recovered. Seventeen coins belong to a well-known type of Ommayad Dinar, and have dates but no indication of the mint; while the remaining two<sup>2</sup> seem, from the available records, to be the earliest dated Ommayad coins yet found.

### 1. Obverse

In the centre

١ - الوجه

المركز : لا اله الا

الله وحده

لا شريك له

Margin

الطوق : محمد رسول الله ارسله بالهدى ودين الحق

ليظهره على الدين كله

### Reverse

In the centre

القفا

المركز : الله احد الله

الصمد لم يلد

ولم يولد

Margin

الطوق : بسم الله ضرب هذا الدين سنة ثلث وسبعين

Struck in the year 73 Hijri during the reign of Abd-el-Malik ibn Marwan. No parallels have been found in the British Museum Catalogue Vol. 1 (1875); the Lajjoun Hoard (published by L.A. Mayer in the Q.D.A.P. Vol. IV) or the Amman Hoard published by Sir Alec Kirkbride in the A.D.A.J. Vol. 1.

<sup>1</sup> See Plate XVII.

<sup>2</sup> Nos. 1 and 14.

Sir Alec Kirkbride, in his article mentioned above, states that a coin dated 79th. Hijri is the earliest dated Arabic coin found in Jordan, and he adds, that judging from the available records, the first dated Arabic coin to be issued was in the same series of Dinars and bore reference to year 77 Hijri. From this it will be seen that our coin, dated to 73 Hijri, is unique and may be considered the earliest dated Arabic coin yet discovered.

In addition to the coin dated 73 Hijri, we have another five coins (Nos. 2,3,4,5 and 6) of the reign of Abd-el-Malik represented in this collection, having the same Arabic legend but dating from 77,80 (2 copies) 81 and 84 Hijri.

**7. Obverse**

In the centre

٧ - الوجه

المركز : لا اله الا

الله وحده

لا شريك له

Margin

الطوق : محمد رسول الله ارسله بالهدى ودين الحق

ليظهره على الدين كله

**Reverse**

In the centre

القفا

المركز : الله احد الله

الصمد لم يلد

ولم يولد

Margin

الطوق : بسم الله ضرب هذا الدين سنة سبع وثمانين

Struck in the year 87 Hijri during the reign of el Waleed I. Examples of this dated coin were found in Amman<sup>1</sup>. Four more coins (nos. 8,9,10 and 11) of the reign of el Waleed I are represented in Orif find, being of 88,91 and 94 (2 copies) Hijri.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Alec Kirkbride, A.D.A.J. Vol. 1: No.9 of the British Museum Catalogue Vol. I, 1875; and No. 159 of the Catalogue des Monnaies Musulmannes de la Bibliotheque Nationale.

12. **Observe**

١٢ - الوجه

In the centre

المركز : لا اله الا  
الله وحده  
لا شريك له

Margin

الطوق : محمد رسول الله ارسله بالهدى ودين الحق  
ليظهره على الدين كله

**Reverse**

القفا

In the centre

المركز : الله احد الله  
الصمد لم يلد  
ولم يولد

Margin

الطوق : بسم الله ضرب هذا الدينر سنة مئة

This was struck in the year 100 Hijri during the reign of Omar ibn Abd-el-Aziz, and is a well-known type of dated Arabic coin.

14. **Observe**

١٤ - الوجه

In the centre

المركز : لا اله الا  
الله وحده  
لا شريك له

Margin

الطوق : محمد رسول الله ارسله بالهدى ودين الحق  
ليظهره على الدين كله

**Reverse**

القفا

In the centre

المركز : الله احد الله  
الصمد لم يلد  
ولم يولد

Margin

الطوق : بسم الله ضرب هذا الدينر سنة سبع ومئة

This was struck in the year 107 Hijri during the reign of Hisham ibn-Abd-el-Malik. No examples of this coin were found in the hoard discovered in Amman<sup>1</sup> or in the hoard of the Ommayad Dinars discovered at el Lajjoun<sup>2</sup>. There are no specimens in the British Museum Catalogue Vol. I, 1875.

Six more coins of the reign of Hisham are represented in this find (Nos. 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19). They have the same Arabic legend but are of different date, having been struck in 106, 107 (2 copies) 110, 113, 114 and 124 Hijri.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Alec Kirkbride, A.D.A.J. Vol. I.

<sup>2</sup> L.A. Mayer, Q.D.A.P. Vol. IV.

In summary, this find consists of issues under four Ommayad Khalifs, grouped as follows : —

<u>Khalif</u>	<u>Reference No. of coin</u>	<u>Date Hijri</u>	<u>Number of examples</u>
Abd-el-Malik ibn Marwan	1	73	1
	2	77	1
	3,4	80	2
	5	81	1
	6	84	1
	El-Waleed I	7	87
8		88	1
9		91	1
10,11		94	2
Omer ibn Abd-el-Aziz	12	100	1
Hisham ibn Abd-el-Malik	13	106	1
	14,15	107	2
	16	110	1
	17	113	1
	18	114	1
	19	124	1
	Total		<u>19</u>

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