

# Some Bronze Coins From Amman

by

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The coins catalogued in this article were recovered during the excavations of the Roman Forum at Amman between 1964 and 1967. The writer wishes to acknowledge his debt of gratitude to the Rev. Fr. Augustine Spijkerman of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, Old City-Jerusalem for helping in the identification and reading of these coins.

The following abbreviations are used :  
Babelon--E. Babelon, *Les Rois de Syrie, d' Arménie et de Commagene*, Paris 1890;

Hill Arabia--G. F. Hill, *Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Arabia, Mesopotamia and Persia in the British Museum*, London, 1922;

Hill Phoen.--G. F. Hill, *Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Phoenicia in the British Museum*, London, 1910;

Sylloge--*Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum*, Part 35 (Syria: Seleucid Kings) Copenhagen, 1959;

Walker--J. Walker, *Catalogue of the Arab-Byzantine and Post-Reform Umayyad Coins*, London, 1959;

Wroth--W. W. Wroth, *Catalogue of the Imperial Byzantine Coins*, 2 Vols, London, 1908.

*Hellenistic and Nabataean Coins (Plate XXXI)*

## 1. Seleucid:

Obv. Veiled Female bust r.

Rev. ↑ Elephant's head l. Inscr. : above, BAΣΙΛΕΩΣ; below, ANTIOXOV. Serrated edge. Pierced. Attributed to King Antiochus III (223-187 B.C.).

Babelon, p. 56, n. 424sqq.; Sylloge, n. 184sq.

## 2. Seleucid:

Obv. Head of King Demetrius I r., diademed.

Rev. ↑ Stern of galley r.; above, in three lines, inscr.: BAΣΙΛΕΩΣ 'ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ Λ[?ΔΝΡ], below, ΤΥΡΙΩΝΙΨ.

Date not entirely clear: NP = 154 = 159/158 B.C.; or possibly, NP = 159 = 154/153 B.C.; cf. Babelon, p. 98, n. 770 and p. 99, n. 777.

## 3. Seleucid:

Obv. Head of Antiochus VIII Gryphus (125-96 B.C.) r., diademed.

Rev. ↑ Zeus Uranius, standing facing. Inscr.: BAΣΙΛΕΩΣ 'ANTIOXOV' ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ.

Babelon, p. 189, n. 1450.

## 4. Seleucid:

Very worn, damaged and heavily encrusted. Just a suggestion that it might be a coin of King Antiochus XII Dionysus; rev.-type: Zeus, nude to waist, standing l.; cf. Babelon, p. 208, n. 1579sqq.

## 5. Seleucid:

Very worn, obv. blank; on rev., apparently Apollo standing l.

## 6. Sidon, an Autonomous Coinage:

Obv. Bust of Tyche r., wearing turreted crown and veil.

Rev. ↑ War-galley l., stern terminating forward in volute, aphlaston at stern; above, in two lines: LBN' ΣΙΔΩΝΙΩΝ; below, Phoenician inscr. ΨΓ Φ [ΛΒΣ]; the date (BN = 52 = 60/59 B.C.) is not entirely sure but very probable, cf. Hill Phoen., p. 162, n. 125.

## 7. Nabataean:

Very worn. rev., perhaps, a Nike walking l. similar type has been hypothetically attributed to king Aretas II (100-96 B.C.).

### 8. Nabataean:

Obv. Bust of King Aretas IV r., laurate.

Rev. ↑ Two cornuacopiae crossed and filleted; between the horns, unclear letters. Cf. **Hill Arabia**, p. 9, n. 27 sqq.

### 9. Nabataean:

Obv. Busts r., jugate, of King Rabbel II and Queen Gamilath. (71-106 A.D.).

Rev. ↑ Two cornuacopiae crossed and filleted; between the horns, inscr.

Ισ/η  
η/δς

Cf. **Hill Arabia**, p. 13, n. 3sqq.

### 10. Nabataean:

Obv. Busts r., jugate, of King Rabbel II and Queen Gamilath (71-106 A.D.).

Rev. ↑ Two cornuacopiae crossed and filleted; between the horns, inscr.

Ισ/η  
η/δς

Cf. **Hill Arabia**, p. 13, n. 3sqq.

*Roman Coins (Plate XXXII)*

### 1. Roman Imperial:

Obv. Youthful bust of Emperor Commodus (180-192 A.D.) draped; inscr. around, beginning l. below: AVP.KOM MOΔOCKAIC

Rev. ↓ Bust of goddess Asteria, mother of the Tyrian Herakles, veiled and surmounted by a star; inscr. around, beginning l. below:

ΦΙΛ.Κ.CV ΘΕΑΑCTΕPI  
in exergue, remainder of inscr. around r. (Size 23mm.) Similar obv. in H. Mattingly and E. A. Sydenham, **The Roman Imperial Coinage**, 1930, Pl. X, n. 206. Similar rev. in **Hill Arabia**, p. 39, n. 12.

### 2. Roman Imperial:

Obv. Bust of Emperor Marcus Aurelius r., bearded, radiate, undraped; inscr. around, beginning l. below: A.KAIC.M.AVP.ANT.C

Rev. ↓ Bust of City-goddess r., draped, wearing turreted crown; inscr. around, beginnink l. belowl.  
ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΕΩΝΚΟΙ .CVP .  
(Size 18mm.).

### 3. Roman Imperial(?):

Obv. Youthful bust of Emperor r., most probably Elagabalus (218-222 A.D.).

Rev. Apparently City-goddess standing l., holding in l. cornuacopiae. Coin is much worn; it is impossible to say whether the inscription is in Greek or Latin.

### 4. Roman Imperial:

Obv. Bust of Emperor Licinius (307-323 A.D.) r., laureate, wearing cuirass; inscr. around, beginning l. below: IMPLICINIVSPF AVG.

Obv. Legionary eagle between two standards; inscr. around, beginning l. below: SPQR OPTIMOPR INCIP; exergue unclear (Size 19 mm.).

### 5. Roman Imperial:

Obv. Bust of Emperor r.; inscription illegible.

Rev. Victory, walking l., holding wreath; details obscure. Fourth Century A.D. (Size 13mm.).

*Byzantine and Islamic Coins (Plate XXXIII)*

1. Obv. Bust of Emperor Justinus I (518-527 A.D.) r., beardless, wearing diadem, cuirass and paludamentum; inscr. around, beginning l. below: DNIVSTI NVSPPAVG.

Rev. M, on l., star; on r., cross; above, cross; beneath, ; in exergue, CON (mint of Constantinople). Cf. Wroth, p. 14, n. 29.

2. Obv. Bust of Emperor Justinus I (518-527 A.D.) r., beardless, wearing diadem, cuirass and paludamentum; inscription obliterated:

[DNIVSTI NVSPPAVG].

Rev. ↓ , on l.A, on r., (Price of 5 nummid). Mint of Constantinople. Cf. Wroth, p. 16, n. 40.

3. Obv. Emperor Constans II 641-668 A.D.), beardless, standing facing holding in r. long cross, in l. globus cross; he wears crown with cross and long robes; inscr. around, beginning l. below (only partly preserved): [ε]NT TO[NIKA].

Rev ↓  ; inscr.: at l., effaced; at r., faint traces of ; above,  cross; in exergue, upper sections of two letters: 1B. (Size 17 mm.).

Similar types in Wroth, p. 268 (Struck ca. 641-651 A.D.).

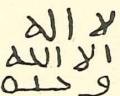
#### 4. Arab-Byzantine:

Obv. Nearly blank; probably Imperial figurine standing to front; details obscure.

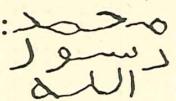
Rev. ↓ (?) ; M; symbol above, unclear; inscr. r. and l.: illegible; in exergue,  Dimashk = Damascus. Similar types in Walker, p. 6sqq. Struck ca. 650 A.D.

#### 5. Umayyad:

Obv. Inscr. in three lines (only partly visible):



Rev. ← Inscr. in three lines (only partly on the flaw):

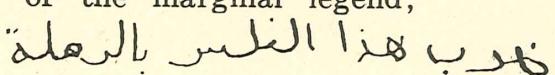


Thick fabric; further details obscure. (Size 13 mm.). Similar types in Walker, p. 207 sqq. Struck ca. 700 A.D.

#### 6. Umayyad:

Obv. Palm-branch within a dotted circle; around, marginal legend same as supra, no. 5, obv.

Rev. ↓ within a dotted circle; remainder of the marginal legend;



(size 15 mm.). Similar types in Walker, n. 855sqq.

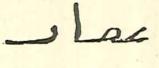
#### 7. Umayyad:

Obv. Within two concentric circles, usual inscr. in three lines.

Rev. ↑ Palm-tree; traces of Kufic inscr.:  Dimashk. Similar types in Walker, P. 249, n. 819.

#### 8. Umayyad:

Obv. Bearded figure of Caliph, standing facing.

Rev. ↓ Transformed cross on steps; in field r., downwards:  = Amman.

Similar types in Walker, p. 138, n. 126 sqq.

#### 9. Umayyad:

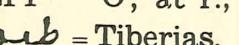
Obv. Within a square, inside a beaded circle, usual inscr. in three lines (only partly visible).

Rev. ↑ Within a plain square, inside a beaded circle, a small fish facing l.; around, usual inscr. Similar types in Walker, p. 217, n. 686 sqq.

#### 10. Byzantino-Arabian:

Obv. Three Imperial figures standing.

Rev. ↑  ; : from l. above, anti-clock-

wise: THBEPI O; at r., clockwise:  = Tiberias.

Similar types in Walker, p. 15, n. 43 sqq.

#### 11. Umayyad:

Obv. Within a circle, usual inscr. in three lines: 

Rev. traces of letters outside the circle. Within a circle, usual inscr. in three lines: 

Similar types in Walker, p. 207 sqq.

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