

RAMLA, TRAIN STATION: COINS

ROBERT KOOL

A salvage excavation along the planned train station on the northern outskirts of Ramla (see Haddad 2018) uncovered 37 coins, of which 18 were identified;¹ all the coins are bronze, unless otherwise noted. Stratigraphy, ceramics and other finds confirm the existence of three main periods of occupation: Stratum III from the Early Islamic period (eighth–eleventh centuries CE); Stratum II from the Mamluk period; and Stratum I from the Ottoman period. These conclusions are borne out by the coin finds, as they neatly fit the proposed stratigraphy and dating.

The earliest coin finds consist of two Umayyad-period copper *fulus* (Nos. 1, 2). No. 1 bears the typical radial design of the local al-Ramla mint, dated to the first decade of the eighth century CE (c. AH 90/708 CE). No. 2 is the typical palm-tree/crescent type, dated to the AH 120s/late 730s CE. Both coins were found in the Stratum III levels in area A along with massive amounts of Early Islamic pottery. To this phase also belong three scarcely readable Abbasid copper *fulus* (Nos. 3–5). Nos. 3 and 4 were found in a general Stratum III context in area A, whereas No. 5 came from a more precise context: an earth fill under a wall in area E, along with Early Islamic ceramics. A fourth Abbasid copper *fulus* (No. 6) came from a mixed fill in Area D1.

Seven coins come from the Mamluk Stratum at the site. An Ayyubid-period *fals* (No. 7) was found along with a Mamluk copper from the reign of al-Naṣir Muḥammad Naṣir al-Din (1310–1341 CE; No. 8) in what seems to be an early Mamluk (Phase IIb) context: collapsed stones near the courtyard of a large structure comprising several rooms in Area A. From debris in a later Mamluk phase (IIa) in Area A came another fourteenth-century *fals* (No. 13). Three additional Mamluk-period coppers came from fills in Area B (Nos. 10–12); one of them was found above an installation (No. 11). Finally, a copper from the reign of al-Ashraf Sha‘bān II (No. 9) was found with typical Mamluk-period ware in Area C.

The latest phase of occupation at the site, in the Ottoman period, discerned in Area A only, yielded four copper *Manghir*, all dated to the short reign of the Ottoman caliph Muḥammad III (AH 1003–1012/1595–1603 CE; Nos. 14–17) and minted in Cairo. All four coins came mostly from fills.

CATALOGUEⁱ

No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	IAA No.
					UMMAYYADS Anonymous, Post-reform (696–750 CE), fals					
1	367	6477	2.17	26 × 28	Within radiate circle: لالاله لالاله / وحده	In field: محمد / رسول لالاله To l.: palm tree	c. 707 AH. 90	Al-Ramla	Cf. Ilisch 1993:12–13, No. 46	147141
2	291	6016		16 × 18	Margin: لالاله لالاله / وحده In field: Palm tree within circle	Margin: خرب هذا القوس / رمتة In field: Crescent with circle	c. 737 AH 120	Al-Ramla	Cf. Ilisch 1993:14, No. 67	147153
					ABBASSIDS Early ninth century CE, fals					
3	172	1432	1.40	16	Illegible	Illegible				147147
4	321	6191	1.86	17	Illegible	Illegible				147143
5*	635	2603	1.13	13 × 15	Illegible	Illegible				147139
6	5139	4031	0.58	15	Illegible	Illegible				147137
					AYYUBIDS End twelfth – thirteenth centuries CE, fals					
7	195	1588	5.71	24	Illegible	Illegible				147150
					MAMLUKS Al Nasir Muhammad Nasir al-Din, third reign AH 709–741/1310–1341 CE, fals					
8*	195	1581	1.18	14	In center: محمد In margins: الملك الناصر [...]	In center: يه / سبعمه / و In margins: خرب [...] / عمر			Cf. Balog 1964:153, No. 233b	147149
					Al-Ashraf Nāṣir ad-Dīn Sha'bān II (AH 764–778/1363–1377 CE), fals					
9	649	2653	2.44	20	Spindle-shaped cartouche with fleur-de-lis edges; inside legend: حسن / بن In margin: [السلطان الملك الناصر شهبان]	Concave linear octolobe in center; inside legend: [خرب / مثنق / بد]		Damascus	Balog 1964:221, No. 458	147138

ⁱ Coins numbers marked with an asterisk appear in Fig. 1.

CATALOGUE'

No.	Locus	Basket	Weight (g)	Diam. (mm)	Obverse	Reverse	Date (CE)	Mint	Reference	IAA No.
						Mamluk, fourteenth century CE, <i>fals</i>				
10	106	1156	3.04	17 × 21	Illegible	Illegible				147136
11	220	1755	2.25	20	Illegible	Illegible				147152
12	310	6104	1.93	16 × 20	Illegible	Illegible				147154
						Mamluk, fourteenth–fifteenth centuries, <i>fals</i>				
13	260	6549	2.22	19 × 21	Illegible	Illegible				147152
						OTTOMAN CALIPHS				
						Muhammad III, AH 1003–1012/1595–1603 CE, <i>manghir</i>				
14	180	1584	7.50	18	المحرو [سنة] / مصر	Arabesque			Kabaklarli 1998:437, No. 13- Msr-01	147148
15*	189	1029	9.11	18	[المحرو سنة] / مصر	Arabesque			See No. 14	147145
16	184	1525	8.58	16	مصر / [---]	Arabesque			See No. 14	147146
17	369	6545	9.63	15 × 17	Illegible	Arabesque			See No. 14	147140
						ISLAMIC, <i>fals</i>				
18	149	1380	2.11	25	Illegible	Illegible				147144



NOTE

¹ The coins were cleaned in the IAA laboratory under the direction of Lena Kuperschmidt and photographed by Clara Amit of the IAA. Dafnah Strauss edited the article.

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