

The Numismatic Chronicle 170 Offprint

EXCAVATION COINS

A Hoard of Mamlūk, Ottoman and Venetian Coins (Fifteenth to
Sixteenth Centuries) from Apollonia-Arsuf, Israel

by

OREN TAL and ISSA BAIDOUN

LONDON
THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
2010

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PLATES 25 – 27

Abstract. This article documents and discusses a hoard of 80 silver Mamlūk and Ottoman coins and two gold and one silver Venetian coins dated to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries with a burial date of AD 1566. It was discovered in Apollonia-Arsuf, Israel, which is renowned in the medieval history of the Holy Land as the place where Richard I of England led the crusaders to victory over the army of Saladin in 1191 in the Third Crusade (Battle of Arsuf).

INTRODUCTION

APOLLONIA-ARSUF, located on the Mediterranean coast of Israel some 17 kilometres north of Jaffa (ancient Joppa, south of Tel Aviv) and 34 kilometres south of Caesarea, has been excavated continuously during the last thirty years.¹ Once a modest coastal settlement, Apollonia-Arsuf became the urban centre of the southern Sharon plain as early as the Persian period (late sixth century BC) and remained important until the crusader period, and its destruction in the mid-thirteenth century AD.

Crusader Arsuf's (then named Arsur) last days are well documented in the historical sources.² In April 1265, in the course of a siege of some forty days, the entire site of Arsur (the town's fortifications and other structures, and eventually its fortified castle) was razed to the ground and is said to have been in ruins ever since. This final destruction is confirmed by thick destruction layers and ruins that were uncovered in the excavated areas all over the fortified site, particularly in the castle.³

The current study is supported by the German-Israeli Foundation — Young Scientists' Program (Grant no. 2190) to whom one of the authors (O. Tal) is indebted. We are grateful to the late I. Roll for entrusting us with the hoard for publication. We are indebted to R. Cool of the Israel Antiquity Authority (henceforth IAA) for his preliminary cataloguing of the coins discovered at Apollonia-Arsuf during 18 seasons of excavations.

¹ For a recent review of the site and excavations see K. Galor, I. Roll and O. Tal, 'Apollonia-Arsuf between past and future', *Near Eastern Archaeology* 72/1 (2009), pp. 4–27 (with earlier references).

² R. Amitai, 'The conquest of Arsuf by Baybars: political and military aspects', *Mamluk Studies Review* 9 (2005), 61–83.

³ A refuse pit from the besieged castle containing numerous local and imported pottery vessels, plain and luxury glass vessels, metal and stone artefacts has been found provide ample evidence for

After the destruction of Arsuf by the Mamlūks the town is next mentioned by Abu el-Fida who said, in AD 1321, that it was ruined and uninhabited.⁴ A few Mamlūk coins have been found on the site. 13 can be securely dated to the time of Baybars I (AH 658–76/AD 1260–77),⁵ but others are either thirteenth or fourteenth century AD, and in cases too illegible to be dated securely to either century.⁶ These coins may have been used by the crusaders or subsequently by a Mamlūk garrison stationed at the site.⁷ Alternatively they may have been lost by people scavenging for building materials. The Mamlūks intentionally left the coast in ruins in order to discourage any further incursions by the Christians.⁸ Following the Ottoman conquest in 1517, a slow process of resettlement along the coast began. A small community of farmers settled at Sayyiduna ‘Ali some 800 metres south of the ruined castle of Arsuf.⁹

The hoard was found beneath a fallen stone outside the southern town wall, inside a broken neck of a ceramic amphora.¹⁰ It contained 80 silver Mamlūk and Ottoman coins and two gold and one silver Venetian coins. Seven of the coins were pierced (nos 6, 10, 37, 38, 53, 56, 72). The latest coin is Ottoman and is dated to

this episode whose importance lies in its absolute dating to the period of March to April 1265, see O. Tal (ed), *Arsuf: A Mid-13th Century Crusader Castle and Its Finds*, Salvage Excavation Reports / Apollonia-Arsuf – Related Studies 2 (Tel Aviv, forthcoming).

⁴ Abu al-Fida, *Taqwim al-Buldan* (Paris, 1848), p. 239; see also G. Le Strange, *Palestine under the Moslems* (London, 1890), p. 339.

⁵ IAA nos. 3108, 117022, 117036, 117126, 117153, 117162, 117164, 117188, 117224, 117226, 117230, 117235, 117236.

⁶ IAA nos. 3109/1, 117109, 117168, 117178, 117186, 117200, 117212, 117222, 117225, 117304.

⁷ Excavations in the crusader castle (Area F) in the 2009 season uncovered post-crusader building activities in the castle’s west façade where secondary use of the crusader castle’s subterranean western halls was documented, cf. O. Tal, ‘Apollonia-Arsuf 2006, 2009’, *Israel Exploration Journal* 60 (2010), p. 108. The victory over the Christians was followed by a distribution of spoils to the troops and the granting of ownership over the captured lands to the emirs who participated in the fighting; cf. F.-M. Abel, ‘La liste des donations de Baïbars en Palestine d’après la charte de 663H. (1265)’, *Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society* 19 (1939/40), pp. 38–44; R. Irwin, ‘Iqta’ and the end of the Crusader states’, in P.M. Holt (ed), *The Eastern Mediterranean Lands in the Period of the Crusades* (Warminster, 1977), pp. 65–7.

⁸ On Mamluk rule in Palestine, see J. Drory, ‘The impact of the Mamluks’ rule on the history of Palestine’, in J. Drory (ed), *Palestine in the Mamluk Period* (Jerusalem, 1992), pp. 1–12. (Hebrew). On the communication lines, cf. R. Hartmann, ‘Die Strasse von Damaskus nach Kairo’, *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 64 (1910), pp. 665–702. The road was built to serve the Mamluk postal service, see in this respect M. Gaudfroy-Demombynes, *La Syrie à l’époque de Mamelouks* (Paris, 1923), pp. 239–44; J. Sauvaget, *La poste aux chevaux dans l’empire des Mamelouks* (Paris, 1941), pp. 10–36.

⁹ Cf. H. Taragan, ‘The tomb of Sayyidnā ‘Alī in Arşūf: the story of a Holy Place’, *JRAS* 14 (2004), pp. 83–102 (with earlier references).

¹⁰ The hoard was discovered in the seventh season of excavations in 1990 (license no. G-71/1990). It came from Area E, Square G23, Locus 1201, Basket 12019 (opened on 17.10.1990). The amphora (which preserved one handle only) is of a fairly well known late crusader-Mamluk period type, cf. M. Avissar and E.J. Stern, *Pottery of the Crusader, Ayyubid, and Mamluk Periods in Israel*, IAA Reports 26 (Jerusalem, 2005), pp. 105–6, Type II.3.2.2-3. Alternatively it may well be that the fragmented handled neck originally belonged to a jug (id. pp. 110–11, Type II.4.2.2-3). The hoard is currently kept with the coin department of the IAA, together with the hundreds of coins found during the site excavations. Thanks go to Tel Aviv University, Institute of Archaeology technical staff, namely N. Halperin for cleaning the coins and P. Shargo for photography.

AH 974 / AD 1566. This suggests the hoard was buried then or soon after. The most recent coin, no. 83, is nearly 40 years later than the other early Ottoman coins which were all struck during a period of 11 years (the latest Ottoman coins could otherwise be dated to AH 933/AD 1527 (nos 77–81); or nearly 30 years when compared to the second latest coin in the hoard, a lira of Venice (no. 3), dated to AD 1538. No less surprising is the fact that the hoard could be divided into three different values; two high value Venetian gold and silver coins, and 80 low value half dirhams and akçes. Given the secure provenance of the hoard we find no satisfactory explanation for both enigmas – although one could always argue that originally two (or more) different caches were buried together (one Venetian, the other Mamlūk and Ottoman). The diversity of the mints of the low value half dirhams and akçes may hint at a merchant as the original owner of the hoard, whereas the seven pierced coins could suggest that it may have been buried by a woman who, in a moment of distress, hid it at a deserted and ruined place and never returned to retrieve it. The hoard is summarised on table 1.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Authority and date</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>Denomination</i>
1–2.	Doge Agostino Barbarigo 1486–1502	Venice	Ducat
3.	Doge Andrea Gritti 1523–38	Venice	Lira
	Mamlūks. Al-Ashraf Abū al-Nāṣr Qānṣūh al-Ghūrī (AH 906–922/AD 1501–1516)		Half-dirham
4.	AH 916/AD 1511	Dimashq دمشق	Half-dirham
5.	AH 918/AD 1513	No mint / missing	Half-dirham
6–10.	Undated	No mint	Half-dirham
	Ottomans. Selīm I (AH 918–26/AD 1512–20)		Akçe
11.	Date missing	Bilghrād بلغراد	Akçe
12–13.	AH 922/AD 1516	Ḥalab حلب	Akçe
14–15.	Date missing	Mint missing	Akçe
16–18.	AH 923/AD 1517	Miṣr مصر	Akçe
19–20.	AH 924/AD 1518	Miṣr مصر	Akçe
21.	AH 925/AD 1519	Miṣr مصر	Akçe
22–28.	Date missing	Mint missing	Akçe
	Ottomans. Sulaymān II (AH 926–74 /AD 1520–66)		
29–37.	AH 926/AD 1520	Āmid آمد	Akçe
38–45, 47–51.	AH 926/AD 1520	Ḥalab حلب	Akçe
46.	Date missing	Mint missing	Akçe
52.	AH 926/AD 1520	Ḥiṣn Keyfā حسنكيف	Akçe
53.	Date missing	Kharbert خربرت	Akçe
54–60.	AH 926/AD 1520	Dimashq دمشق	Akçe
61.	Date missing	Dimashq دمشق	Akçe
62–66.	AH 926/AD 1520	Mar'ash مرعش	Akçe
67.	AH 926/AD 1520	Miṣr مصر	Akçe
68–75.	AH 930/AD 1524	Miṣr مصر	Akçe
76.	AH 932/AD 1526	Miṣr مصر	Akçe
77–81.	AH 933/AD 1527	Miṣr مصر	Akçe

82.	Missing	Missing	Akçe
	Ottomans. Selīm II (AH 974–82 / AD 1566–74)		
83.	AH 974/AD 1566	Āmid آمد	Akçe

Table 1.

CATALOGUE

No. Die axis Diam. Wt IAA no. Comments

Venice

Agostino Barbarigo, 1486–1502. Ducat.

Obv. St Mark holding book of Gospels and presenting banner to Doge.

AVG BARBADICO S M VENETI. DVX vertically down flag.

Rev. Christ in mandorla. **SITX PEDATQ T V REGISISTEDV**

CNI VII, p. 199, no. 146 var.; *Gamberini* 226; Paolucci, p. 53, no. 1.

1. 11:00 h 21 mm 3.45 g IAA122250

As no. 1, but **SIT T XPEDAT Q TV REGIS ISTE DVCAT**

2. 01:00 h 22 mm 3.48 g IAA122251

Andrea Gritti 1523–38. Lira.

Obv. Christ standing, facing on platform with **PL** inscribed. Around: **GLORIA-TIB-P-SOLI**.

Rev. Doge with gonfalon kneeling left, before St Mark standing r., raising hem of his robes.

Around: **SM-VENET-ANDREAS-GRITI. DVX** vertically down flag.

Paolucci, p. 59, no. 5.

3. 06:00 h 32 mm 6.18 g IAA122252

Mamlūks

Al-Ashraf Abū al-Nāṣir Qānṣūh al-Ghūrī (AH 906–22/AD 1501–16)

Half dirham

Dimashq دمشق

Obv. Field, three segments divided by two horizontal lines: \ قانصوه \ السلطان ...

Rev. Field (missing border), in centre: 916 بدمشق سنة (numerals are reversed 916).

Balog, *MSES*, cf. no. 883.

4. 02:30 h 16 mm 0.92 g IAA122253

No mint or mint missing, 918/1513

Obv. Field, two segments divided by a horizontal dotted line: ... \ الاشرف \

Rev. Field, three segments divided by two zzz-shaped horizontal lines: 918 \ محمد رسول الله \

... [لا اله الا الله]

Balog, *MSES*, cf. no. 887.

5. 09:00 h 13 mm 0.91 g IAA122254

No mint, undated

Obv. Field (missing border), in centre, within an octalobe linear: قانصوه
 Rev. Field (missing border), in centre, within an octalobe linear: الغوري
 Balog, *MSES*, cf. nos 892, 892A.

6. --h	15 mm	0.90 g	IAA122255	Pierced.
7. --h	15 mm	0.87 g	IAA122256	
8. --h	14 mm	0.96 g	IAA122257	
9. --h	13 mm	0.88 g	IAA122258	
10. --h	16 mm	0.82 g	IAA122259	Pierced and effaced.

Ottomans

Selīm I (AH 918–26 / AD 1512–20). Akçe

Bilghrād بلغراد

Field type

Obv. Field, within an ornamented border: سلطان سليم شاه بن بايزيد خان

Rev. Field, within an ornamented border: ... عز نصره ضرب بلغراد

Pere, *OMP*, cf. no. 124.

11. 07:00 h 15 mm 0.89 g IAA122260

Ḥalab حلب 922/1516

Field type

Obv. Field (border missing): [سلطان سليم شاه بن] بايزيد خان

Rev. Field (border missing): ... حلب سنة 922

Pere, *OMP*, cf. no. 130.

12. 02:30 h 15 mm 0.85 g IAA122261

13. 11:00 h 11 mm 0.76 g IAA122262

Mint and date missing

14. 11:00 h 13 mm 1.15 g IAA122263

15. 11:30 h 13 mm 0.88 g IAA122264

Miṣr مصر 923/1517

Field type: heart ornamentation on both sides

Obv. Field: ضارب النضر صاحب العز والنصر في البر والبحر

Rev. Field: سلطان سليم خان بن بايزيد خان عز نصره بمصر سنة 923

Ghalib, *TMU*, cf. no. 190.

16. 05:30 h 14 mm 0.88 g IAA122265

17. 03:30 h 12 mm 0.86 g IAA122266

18. 08:30 h 13 mm 0.88 g IAA122267

Miṣr مصر 924/1518

19. 02:00 h 13 mm 0.87 g IAA122268

20. 12:30 h 14 mm 0.85 g IAA122269 Numerals of date reversed 492.

Miṣr مصر 925/1519

21. --h 12 mm 0.86 g IAA122270 Crude. Numerals of date reversed 592.

Mint and date missing

22. 09:00 h 13 mm 0.76 g IAA122271

23. 08:30 h 12 mm 0.79 g IAA122272

24. 08:30 h 14 mm 0.91 g IAA122273

25. --h 16 mm 1.26 g IAA122274

26. --h 16 mm 0.90 g IAA122275

27. --h 12 mm 0.81 g IAA122276

28. --h 14 mm 0.83 g IAA117096

Sulaymān II (AH 926–74 / AD 1520–66). Akçe

Āmid آمد 926/1520

Cartouche type: both sides

Obv. Field, in centre, within an ornamented cartouche, with bezel-shaped hearts into two edges: سلطان العادل \ بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field, within an ornamented cartouche, with bezel-shaped hearts into two edges: عز نصره ضرب سنة 926

Edhem, *MO*, no. 799; Pere, *OMP*, no. 204; Artuk, *KSSABS*, no. 46.

29. 11:00 h 16 mm 1.15 g IAA122277

30. --h 15 mm 1.17 g IAA122278

Obv. Field, in centre, within an ornamented cartouche: سلطان سليمان شاه above and below, two-line inscription: سلطان العادل \ بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field, within an ornamented cartouche: عز نصره ضرب سنة 926 counter-clockwise marginal inscription: عز نصره ضرب سنة 926

Artuk, *KSSABS*, no. 47.

31. 12:00 h 14 mm 1.12 g IAA122279

32. --h 14 mm 1.22 g IAA122280 Obverse and date effaced but same type.

33. --h 13 mm 0.73 g IAA122281 As no. 32.

34. --h 15 mm 1.16 g IAA122282 With a date.

Cartouche type: one side

Obv. Field, within an ornamented border: سلطان سليمان بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field, within an ornamented cartouche, with bezel-shaped hearts into two edges: عز نصره ضرب سنة ...

Artuk, *KSSABS*, cf. nos 45–46.

Date effaced but 926/1520

35. --h 13 mm 1.12 g IAA122283

Cartouche type: double square

Obv. Field, in centre, within an ornamented cartouche: سلطان سليمان شاه above and below, two line-inscription: سلطان العادل \ بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field, within a double square: عز نصره ضرب (سنة 926) counter-clockwise marginal inscription: عز نصره ضرب (سنة 926)

Artuk, *KSSABS*, cf. nos 44–45.

36. 04:00 h 15 mm 1.20 g IAA122284

Field type

Obv. Field, within a dotted circle inside double circle: سلطان سليمان بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field, within a dotted circle inside double circle, in centre: عز نصره ضرب سنة

Artuk, *KSSABS*, cf. nos 45–44, p.16.

Date effaced but 926.

37. 02:30 h 17 mm 1.08 g IAA122285 Pierced.

Halab حلب 926/1520

Cartouche type: both sides

Obv. Field, in centre, within an ornamented cartouche, with bezel-shaped hearts into two edges: سلطان بن سليم خان

Rev. Field, within an ornamented cartouche, with bezel-shaped hearts into two edges, three-line inscription: عز نصره ضرب

Pere, *OMP*, no. 206; Artuk, *KSSABS*, no. 113.

38. --h 16 mm 1.15 g IAA122286 Pierced.

39. 05:00 h 15 mm 1.15 g IAA122287

40. 05:00 h 16 mm 1.15 g IAA122288

Cartouche type: arabesque or rosette

Obv. Field, in centre, within an ornamented cartouche, with bezel-shaped hearts into two edges: سلطان بن سليم خان

Rev. Field, three-line inscription, with arabesque or rosette ornamentation: عز نصره ضرب حلب سنة 926

Baramki, *QDAP XI*, cf. no. 59; Artuk, *KSSABS*, cf. nos 113, 116.

Arabesque type

41. 12:00 h 15 mm 1.14 g IAA122289

42. 04:00 h 16 mm 1.15 g IAA122290 Date missing.

Rosette type

43. --h 14 mm 1.17 g IAA122291

44. --h 14 mm 1.16 g IAA122292

45. --h 15 mm 1.18 g IAA122293

46. --h 15 mm 1.14 g IAA122294 Date missing.

Field type: heart ornamentation on both sides

Obv. Field, within a dotted circle inside double circle: سلطان سليمان بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field, within a dotted circle inside double circle: عز نصره حلب سنة 926

Baramki, *QDAP XI*, nos 18–35; Artuk, *KSSABS*, cf. no. 116.

47. 03:00 h 14 mm 1.19 g IAA122295

48. 12:00 h 15 mm 1.19 g IAA122296

49. 08:00 h 14 mm 1.08 g IAA122297
 50. --h 15 mm 1.18 g IAA122298
 51. 07:00 h 14 mm 0.87 g IAA122299 *bin salīm Khān* on obv. and with *fī* on rev. Date effaced. Artuk, *KSSABS*, cf. no. 118.

Hisn Keyfā حسنكيف 926

Field type: heart ornamentation on both sides

Obv. Field (border missing): سلطان سليمان شاه بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field (border missing): عز نصره ضرب حسنكيف سنة 926

Artuk, *KSSABS*, cf. no. 127.

52. 03:00 h 14 mm 0.95 g IAA122300

Kharbert خربرت Date missing

Field type

Obv. Field (border missing): سلطان سليمان شاه بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field (border missing): ... عز نصره ضرب خربرت

Pere, *OMP*, cf. no. 207; Artuk, *KSSABS*, cf. no. 123.

53. 08:30 h 16 mm 1.16 g IAA122301 Pierced

Dimashq دمشق 926/1520

Field type: heart ornamentation on both sides

Obv. Field, within a dotted circle inside double circle: سلطان سليمان شاه بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field, within a dotted circle inside double circle: عز نصره ضرب دمشق سنة 926

Baramki, *QDAP* XI, nos 60–62; Pere, *OMP*, cf. no. 205; Artuk, *KSSABS*, cf. nos 96–97.

54. 12:00 h 14 mm 1.17 g IAA122302
 55. 02:00 h 15 mm 1.21 g IAA122303
 56. 07:00 h 17 mm 1.17 g IAA122304 Pierced, two holes.
 57. 12:00 h 14 mm 1.18 g IAA122305
 58. 08:00 h 13 mm 1.19 g IAA122306
 59. 07:00 h 15 mm 1.18 g IAA122307 Crude.

Field type: rosette on both sides

60. --h 15 mm 1.30 g IAA122308 Rosette and date missing.

Cartouche type: one side

Obv. Field, in centre, within an ornamented cartouche with bezel-shaped hearts into two edges: سلطان سليمان شاه \ بن سليم خان

Rev. Field, in centre: ornamentation. Around: عز نصره ضرب دمشق

61. 09:00 h 16 mm 1.19 g IAA122309 Date missing.

Mar'ash مرعش 926/1520

Cartouche type: both sides

Obv. Field, in centre, within an ornamented cartouche with bezel-shaped hearts into two edges: سلطان بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field, within an ornamented cartouche, with bezel-shaped hearts into two edges, three-line inscription: 926 \ سنة \ مرعش \ عز نصره \ ضرب

Artuk, *KSSABS*, no. 143.

62.	04:00 h	15 mm	1.16 g	IAA122310
63.	--h	16 mm	1.16 g	IAA122311
64.	--h	15 mm	1.19 g	IAA122312
65.	04:00 h	14 mm	1.15 g	IAA122313

Field type: heart ornamentation on both sides

Obv. Field, within a dotted circle inside double circle: سلطان سليمان شاه بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field, within a dotted circle inside double circle: 926 \ سنة \ مرعش \ ضرب

Pere, *OMP*, cf. no. 210; Artuk, *KSSABS*, no. 143A.

66.	12:00 h	13 mm	1.19 g	IAA122314
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Miṣr 926/1520

Field type: two stars flanked with heart

Obv. Field (border missing): سلطان سليمان شاه بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field (border missing): 926 \ سنة \ مرعش \ ضرب

Baramki, *QDAP* XI, cf. nos 66–71; Artuk, *KSSABS*, cf. no. 167.

67.	08:00 h	14 mm	1.14 g	IAA122315
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Field type: star ornamentation

Obv. Field, within a dotted circle inside double circle: سلطان سليمان شاه بن سليم شاه

Rev. Field, within a dotted circle inside double circle: 930 \ سنة \ مرعش \ ضرب

Artuk, *KSSABS*, cf. no. 166.

930/1524

68.	03:00 h	14 mm	1.18 g	IAA122316	Star on rev.
69.	05:30 h	15 mm	1.09 g	IAA122317	As no. 68.
70.	03:00 h	21 mm	1.18 g	IAA122318	As no. 68.
71.	02:00 h	15 mm	1.18 g	IAA122319	As no. 68.
72.	12:00 h	15 mm	1.17 g	IAA122320	Pierced.
73.	08:30 h	15 mm	1.14 g	IAA122321	As no. 68 but not pierced.
74.	03:00 h	16 mm	0.86 g	IAA122322	Star on obv., date effaced.
75.	09:00 h	17 mm	1.19 g	IAA122323	Two stars on obv. and rev.

932/1526

76.	--h	14 mm	1.14 g	IAA117095	Star on rev.
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933/1527

77.	11:00 h	14 mm	1.21 g	IAA122324	Two stars on obv. and rev.
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78. --h	15 mm	1.28 g	IAA122325	
79. 01:00 h	15 mm	1.17 g	IAA122326	
80. 03:30 h	17 mm	1.15 g	IAA122327	
81. 03:00 h	15 mm	1.15 g	IAA122328	As above, but date and stars effaced.

Field type: central circle

Obv. Field, in centre, within a plain circle: سليمان around: ...شاه...

Rev. Field: badly worn.

Mint and date missing

82. 01:00 h	15 mm	1.17 g	IAA122329	
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Selīm II (AH 974–82 / AD 1566–74). Akçe

آمد آمد

Field type: central circle

Obv. Field, in centre, within a plain circle: سليمان خان around: شاه [سليمان]

Rev. Field, in centre, within an ornamented cartouche with bezel-shaped hearts into two edges: آمد above and below, two-line inscription (date 984 for 974): 984 سنة ضرب سنة 894 (numerals are reversed 894).

Artuk, *IAM*, cf. no. 1582.

974/1566

83. --h	14 mm	1.19 g	IAA122330	
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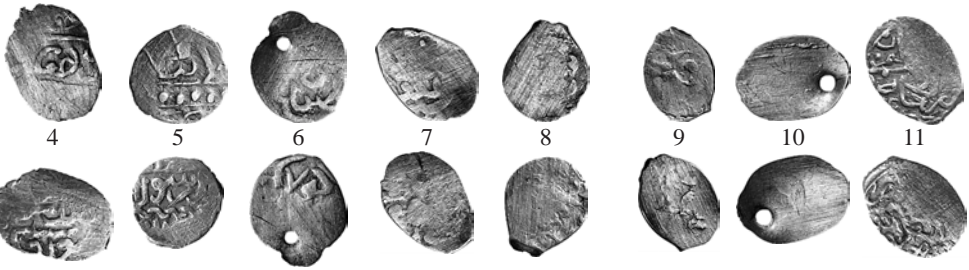


PLATE 26



