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Editors' Note

The enthusiastic response to the first volume of *Israel Numismatic Research* has encouraged all those who have contributed to the current volume. The Israel Numismatic Society is indebted to the additional Founders of *Israel Numismatic Research*, and life members of the Society without whose generosity the publication of the journal would not have been possible: Michel Amandry, George S. Blumenthal, J. Chaim Kaufman, Steve L. Rubinger, Joseph Semarini and two anonymous donors.

As its name implies, and as the modern format of the journal attests, the editors wish this expression of the activities of the Israel Numismatic Society to be in the forefront of numismatic study of the southern Levant. As part of that aim, it has been decided to announce a change — for forthcoming volumes of the *INR* — in one heretofore consensual set of coin *designations*: those minted under earlier Roman governors of Judea. The following comments on the current system of classification explain the reasoning behind the change.[1]

NEW *INR* CLASSIFICATION FOR EARLY ROMAN GOVERNORS OF JUDEA

The initial period of direct Roman rule over Judea lasted from 6 to 66 CE, with a short interlude during Agrippa I's reign between 41 and 44. During this period of some sixty years, a few series of coins were minted in Jerusalem under various Roman governors, who seem to have been called *praefecti* up to 41 and *procuratores* after 44 CE.[2] Names of these governors are known from Josephus, and current numismatic literature tends to classify the coins in question according to these names. However, this system may well be in need of revision.

None of the names under which the coins appear in most catalogues and reference books is mentioned on the coins themselves. What one does find on the coins is the name of the current Roman emperor (Augustus, Tiberius, Claudius or Nero) and the emperor's regnal year. As the chronology of Roman emperors is well established, no problem arises in calculating the exact year of a given issue. Therefore, if a coin is placed under a heading that includes these two basic components — the emperor's name and the year of his rule — it is easy to identify it immediately. Moreover, these components correspond to what one actually sees on a coin, with no speculative elements involved.

This is not the case if the coin is classified — as is currently done — as having

1 Provided by editorial board member Alla Kushnir-Stein.

2 Schürer E. 1973. *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ* I. Rev. and ed. by G. Vermes, F. Millar and M. Black. Edinburgh, p. 358.

being minted under this or that Roman governor. Josephus gives few precise chronological indications about the periods of tenure of most of the governors involved, and the exact years of their comings and goings remain very unclear. For instance, the coin dated to 'year 5' of Nero (58/9), often appearing under the name of Festus, has an equal, if not greater, chance of having been struck under that official's predecessor, Antonius Felix.[3] Another example is the issue under the emperor Augustus dated 'year 39'. If counted by a proper era — that of autumn 31 BCE — this issue belongs to 8/9 CE. Josephus tells us in a casual manner that there were three governors under Augustus — Coponius, Marcus Ambibulus and Annius Rufus — and that the emperor died during the administration of Rufus (*BJ* 2:117, *Ant*. 18:31–32). He further adds that Augustus' successor, Tiberius, dispatched Valerius Gratus to replace Rufus (*Ant*. 18:33). We have no proper knowledge of when each of these governors replaced another, and most of the dates appearing in scholarly literature are no more than conjectures. Furthermore, even if one assigns, rather mechanically, the period from 6 to 9 to Coponius and that from 9 to 12 to Ambibulus, which is often done, the question under whom the coin of 'year 39' was minted cannot be properly answered, as the year 8/9 would be shared by two governors. And there seems to be no scholarly consensus even about the years of tenure of Pontius Pilate,[4] which Josephus places in the later part of Tiberius' reign (*Ant*. 18:35, 88–89).

The current classification system thus appears to introduce a great deal of obscurity in the way it assigns the coins under review, and, being based on interpretations rather than facts, it has a serious potential to mislead. Therefore, replacing it with a system, both simple and precise, of placing these coins under the headings composed of the emperor's name and year of rule seems to offer considerable improvement. As the name of a contemporary Roman governor has no bearing either on the chronology of a given coin or on its identification, its omission will do no harm to research. Of course, old habits die hard. But for those who would still like to mention a name of a Roman governor it may be better to put it in an optional manner only, in brackets, and accompanied, in the majority of cases, with a question mark.

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3 Schürer 1973:465–466, n. 42.

4 Josephus. *Jewish Antiquities*, Books XVIII–XX (Loeb Classical Library 433). Transl. L.H. Feldman. Cambridge, Mass.-London, 1969, p. 31, note c (referring to *Ant*. 18:35); Schwartz D.R. 1992. *Studies in the Jewish Background of Christianity* (Wissenschaftliche Unterschungen zum Neuen Testament 60). Tübingen, pp. 182–201.

The History of the Israel Numismatic Society[1]

Arie Kindler

Abstract
Paralleling the growth of the state, the Israel Numismatic Society has greatly developed from its modest beginnings in 1945 as "The Numismatic Section of the Tel Aviv Circle of Amateurs of Antiquities." Through the efforts and expertise of several people, from collectors to professors, the Society has advanced modern numismatic research in the small country. Several of its exceptional publications and journals continue to broaden our understanding of financial and political events throughout Israel's ancient and modern history.

The organization that was to become the Israel Numismatic Society (INS) was founded at a historic meeting on May 10, 1945. It was then called "The Numismatic Section of the Tel Aviv Circle of Amateurs of Antiquities." Present at that meeting were: architect David Nudelman, engineer David Kissin, architect Leo Kadman (Kaufmann), Frederic Neuberg (a collector of ancient glass), Arie Kindler and a Mr. Adari. These gentlemen may thus be considered the founding members of the INS.

No formal contact had existed prior to that event between individual coin collectors, although they made each other's acquaintance during their occasional visits to the shops of antiquity dealers. Such, for instance, was the case with Nudelman and Kindler, who met for the first time in 1939, and used to visit each other to discuss numismatics and show their recent acquisitions. The initial impetus for the foundation of the "Numismatic Section" was given by Nudelman, who arranged for a collective purchase of the complete stock of coins of the only Tel Aviv coin dealer of importance, the late Mr. A. Isersky. It was bought up by Nudelman, Kissin, Kadman, and an engineer named Hanan Pavel. The main interest of the collectors was in ancient coins and in many ways this remains the focus of the Society until the present.

It was resolved at the foundation meeting, to undertake a number of activities:

(1) To hold regular meetings with lectures and discussions.
(2) To present coins and try to identify hitherto unknown types.
(3) To establish a numismatic library.
(4) To arrange annual conventions.

Towards this end, Kadman put his house at the disposal of the "Numismatic

1 The original draft of this article was typed and preliminarily edited by Paul Goldstein. I would like to thank Dan Barag, Ariel Berman and Rachel Barkay for their help in supplementing this history with images and details.

Section" for meetings, for housing the numismatic library, and to serve as a postal address. An annual membership fee of half a Palestinian Pound (500 mils) was fixed. Finally, Nudelman, the initiator of the meeting, was elected first chairman of the "Numismatic Section."

In November 1947, the members of the "Numismatic Section" decided to separate themselves from the "Tel Aviv Circle of Amateurs of Antiquities" and founded the INS. This decision took place about the same period that the United Nations voted in favor of the establishment of the Jewish State in Palestine.

Nudelman remained chairman and, the following were elected to the Board of Directors: Eleazar Lipa Sukenik (professor of archaeology at the Hebrew University); Adolf Reifenberg (professor of geology at the Hebrew University); Mordecai Narkiss (Director of the Bezalel Museum, Jerusalem); Dr. Josef Meyshan (Mestachanski; physician); Hanan Pavel; Leo Kadman; and a Mr. Rosin.

The members of the Society had little experience in coin-collecting and systematic numismatic research and it was Nudelman, an established coin collector from Czechoslovakia, who instructed the group in collecting techniques. Tragically, Nudelman was killed during an air-raid over Tel Aviv carried out by the Egyptian Air Force in the summer of 1948. In his place, Reifenberg, who by then had published a revised edition of his 1940 catalogue of Jewish coins (Reifenberg 1947), was elected chairman of the INS. Kadman, who was in fact the driving force behind all the activities of the INS, was officially named its secretary.

During the first years of the state the INS acted as the consulting body to the government of Israel on numismatic matters. With respect to the symbols and denominational names for Israel's first coins, the proposals of the Society's representatives, Kadman and Pavel, were accepted and confirmed by the government. The principle was to adopt symbols from ancient Jewish coins and reproduce them on Israel's first coins in a contemporary style. From that period onward, Israeli coins bear symbols such as the three ears of barley, the palm tree, the lyre and the three pomegranates, which were taken from the ancient repertoire. The first Israeli stamps portraying ancient coins (the *Doar Ivri* series) were also issued in close consultation with the INS.

The activities of the INS soon intensified and the lectures given at the monthly meetings in Kadman's house inspired its members to more profound research. The numismatic library grew and many INS members made use of it. Nudelman's library was its nucleus, and after his death, it was named the "David Nudelman Numismatic Library" (later transferred to the Kadman Numismatic Museum, now part of the Eretz Israel Museum, Ramat Aviv). From as early as 1946 guest lecturers were invited from Jerusalem, such as Reifenberg, Narkiss, Stella Ben-Dor (lecturer of the numismatics course at the Hebrew University), and others. The erudition of the INS members accruing from such lectures was remarkable and

became an impetus for further numismatic activities. The stimulating discussions that followed the lectures — about eight of which were given annually — fostered a high level of intellectual honesty on the part of the participants.

The INS also organized tours to historical sites, with related lectures. As a result of these activities, individual members started specializing in different periods or geographical regions. Meyshan focused on the Herodian coinage, and Kindler on the coins of the Hasmoneans, as well as on the city-coins of ʿAkko-Ptolemais and Tiberias. Kadman concentrated on the Roman provincial ("city") coins, while Kissin specialized in the *tetradrachms* of Ascalon and their purchasing power. Lawyer Ernst Werner Klimowsky worked on the coins of the Parthians and Sasanians. Mrs. Hetta Cohn specialized on Nabataean coins, while H. Hamburger worked on the *minimae* he discovered by himself in the dunes of Caesarea. Team work on Palestinian numismatics was achieved by the members of the INS thanks to the specialization of the individual members on one hand, and the presentation of their numismatic problems at the meetings and the fruitful discussions that followed, on the other hand. Beyond the core group of activists in the Society, many members (e.g., Avraham Eran, Herbert Hirsch, Leo Mildenberg, Meir Rosenberger, Bruno Oestreicher, Shraga Qedar and Arnold Spaer) published articles of numismatic interest in various venues.

In April 1950, seven members of the INS, under the auspices of Reifenberg, collectively acquired the stock of the late Mr. Shachor (Schwarz), of Jerusalem. There were some 4,000 coins, about half of which were Jewish *perutot*, and the other half consisted of larger coins of silver and bronze, most of them Jewish or Roman provincial coins. The whole lot was bought at the price of 520 IL. Kindler was entrusted with the task of dividing the materials into seven equal parts. A rare photograph of a meeting of the INS in Jerusalem in 1950 is shown in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1. Meeting of the INS in Jerusalem in 1950. Facing, from right to left, Kindler, Sukenik, Narkiss, Avraham Schalit, Meyshan, Kadman and an unknown participant.

After a few years of activities members felt the time was right to organize a meeting on a national level. The first national numismatic convention, on March 30 and 31, 1951, was held in Haifa under the motto "Coins of the Jews" (Fig. 2). Other national numismatic conventions followed. As many as 70 to 90 members and guests attended each of more than a dozen such conventions in the coming years. Annual general meetings of the INS were held and, at each of their closing sessions, a new board of directors was elected.



Fig. 2. Printed cover of envelope from 1951 advertising the INS national numismatic convention. Inside the envelope a printed schedule of the lectures was found. Note the postal cancellation of the stamp.

Members of the INS also participated in and read papers at International Numismatic Congresses. The first delegates were Kadman and Baruch Kanael in Paris in 1953. In those early years, contacts had already begun to grow between the INS and numismatic societies abroad, with other learned institutions such as museums and universities, as well as with individual numismatists.

On August 27, 1953, INS chairman Reifenberg passed away at the age of 54. The INS board elected Kadman as his successor and Kindler as secretary. During these first years, the INS was still operating within a small but active circle of members (Fig. 3), but its reputation was growing. The Israel Department of Antiquities, as well as various museums in Israel, and those responsible for coin collections in kibbutzim, would ask for numismatic advice from INS members. In

1955 and 1956 the INS Board of Directors met with the president of the State of Israel, Yitzhak Ben-Zvi.



Fig. 3. Verso and recto of INS membership card from 1960–1971.

Beginning in 1954 the INS initiated the Occasional Publication series entitled *Numismatic Studies and Researches*. The first issues were comprised of articles by INS members. Later issues had single authors. Ten volumes have appeared to date. In addition, during those years, another ambitious project was inaugurated

by the INS, a *Corpus Nummorum Palestinensium*, to be composed of 18 volumes. This work was to be subdivided into four subjects: City Coins (nine volumes); Jewish Coinage (five volumes); Royal and Imperial mints (Yehud, Alexander the Great, Seleucid and Ptolemaic, as well as the provincial *tetradrachms* from Caracalla to Elagabalus); and three additional volumes dealing with early Islamic coinage; Crusader issues and finally, the British Mandate and the State of Israel. Of the many authors lined up for this great project, only Kadman, by virtue of his dynamic personality and the relentless research to which he had come to devote the last period of his life, succeeded in publishing the first four volumes. These volumes covered the coins of Aelia Capitolina (1956), Caesarea Maritima (1957), the Jewish War (1960) and ʻAkko-Ptolemais (1961). A fifth volume — on Nysa-Scythopolis — was published in 2003 by Rachel Barkay.

The results of the early intensive numismatic activity were also channeled into the publication of the *Yediot Numismatiot Be-Yisrael* (in Hebrew) and *Israel Numismatic Bulletin* (in English), published by the Israel Medals and Coins Company, and its director-general Levi Abrahami. Under the editorship of Kadman, five issues of the *Bulletin* appeared from January 1962 until July 1963. The *Bulletin* issues also contained news regarding the Israel Coins and Medal Company's own coins and medals (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4. Medal in honor of the twentieth anniversary of the INS in 1965 (*INJ* 2/3–4:61, Pl. 4:15).

From 1963 until 1966 the INS took the publication of its scientific magazine into its own hands. It inaugurated the *Israel Numismatic Journal* (*INJ*), and succeeded in issuing three volumes in quick succession. The first editor-in-chief was Kadman. He was followed by Michael Avi-Yonah (professor of archaeology at the Hebrew University), who was assisted by an editorial board composed of Kindler, Klimowsky, Meyshan, Moshe Boneh, and, in its last stage, joined by David (Buki) Idlin and Spaer. The publication of the third volume was delayed by the sudden and untimely death of the Society's president, Leo Kadman, who collapsed and died during his opening address at the first International Numismatic Convention, in Jerusalem (at the Institute of Archaeology at Givat Ram), on December 27, 1963 (Fig. 5). The convention, dedicated to the patterns of

monetary development in Phoenicia and Palestine in antiquity, came under the joint auspices of the International Numismatic Commission and the INS. In his introduction to the publication of the Proceedings, the President of the INC, and convention delegate Carol Humphrey Vivian Sutherland, acknowledged Kadman's inspiring role in that convention in the following words: "The privilege of introducing this volume…would assuredly have belonged to the late Mr. Leo Kadman, to whose vision, energy, and generosity, the International Numismatic Convention at Jerusalem in 1963 was so conspicuously indebted" (Kindler 1967:iii).

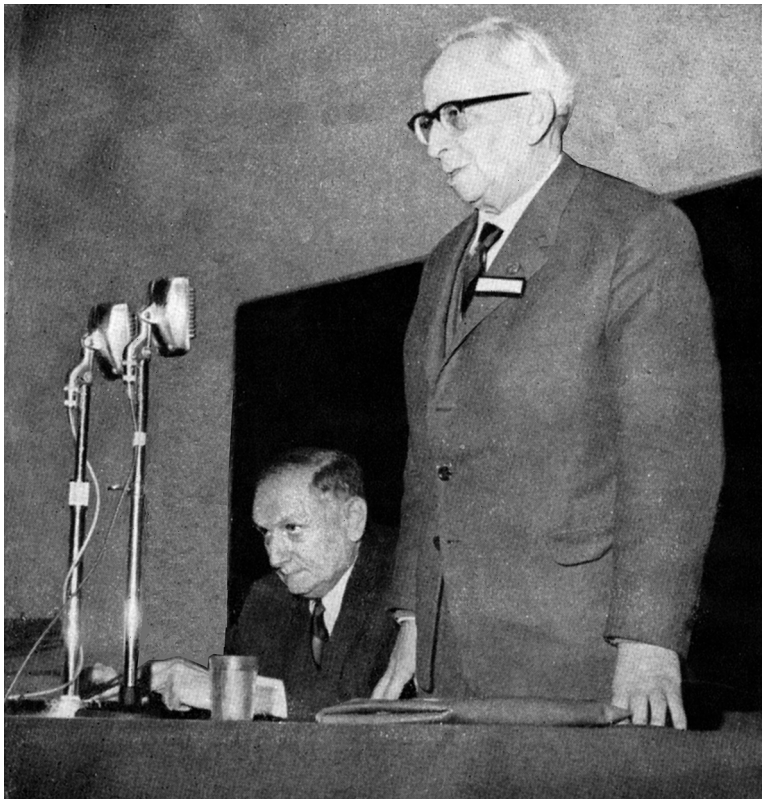


Fig. 5. Leo Kadman addressing the Opening Session of the International Numismatic Convention at Jerusalem, December 27, 1963 (beside him, Sutherland; Kindler 1967, *frontispiece*).

From Kadman's death until 1966, Avi-Yonah was chairman of the INS. The leadership of the Society was then undertaken by Klimowsky. He was followed by Kindler, and then by Dan Barag (professor of archaeology at the Hebrew University) in 1975. During this period and until 2005 the Board of Directors of the INS held annual meetings at Kindler's home in Tel Aviv.

In the mid 1970s a law was drafted forbidding commerce in antiquities. Strongly opposed to the move, many members of the INS encouraged the new chairman, Barag, to lead opposition to the initiative. After a presentation and deliberation in the Knesset's Education and Culture Committee, Barag successfully achieved the withdrawal of the legislation.

Between 1967 and 1973, the INS published a Hebrew magazine, *Alon*, with Kindler as editor. The magazine included short articles, archaeological and numismatic updates, transition, and humor (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6. Cartoon in *Alon* 4/2 (1969):40.

In 1980, the publication of the *INJ* was renewed, picking up with volume 4, under the able editorship of Barag, then INS chairman. Barag maintained the consistently high level of the INS journal for over a quarter century, attracting scholarly contributions from Israel and abroad.

The INS was organized in three branches, Tel Aviv (meeting at the Kadman Numismatic Pavilion), Jerusalem and Haifa (meeting at the National Maritime

Museum) — with some intermittent activity by a peripatetic "kibbutz branch." The Jerusalem branch faltered for long periods, and, in 1976 it was reorganized by Barag, Ya'akov Meshorer, Spaer, Qedar, Rosenberger, Rony Fihrer and Rachel Barkay. The monthly meetings were held at a number of locations, including the L.A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art and the Shechter Institute of Jewish Studies, and are currently held at the Israel Museum.

The eight or nine monthly lectures have remained the mainstay of the INS branches' activities (Fig. 7). Titles of all of the branch lectures during the first 13 years of the INS, and of the lectures of the first four national conventions, are found in a pamphlet on the beginnings of the INS, published in Tel Aviv in 1959. It

ACTIVITIES OF THE ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Haifa

During the month of November the following lectures will be delivered to the Haifa branch of the Israel Numismatic Society:

1. *Daniel Cohn:* The earliest development of coinage.
2. *Herbert Hirsch:* Numismatic impressions from visits to European museums.
3. *Dr. Zeev Goldman (Akko):* Crusaders' Sculptures at Akko.

The meetings of the branch will be held every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. at the Municipal Museum of Ancient Art, Haifa.

Tel-Aviv

On November 14th a general meeting of the Tel-Aviv branch will be held. Agenda: 1. Report on the activities of the branch; 2. Resolutions and elections; 3. *A. Kindler:* Numismatic impressions from a tour through Sicily; 4. *Dr. E. W. Klimowsky:* Impressions from the Congress of Classical Archeology at Paris.

Meeting of the Central Committee

A meeting of the Central Committee of the Israel Numismatic Society will be held in Tel-Aviv on November 28th.

Fig. 7. Activities of the Israel Numismatic Society, 1963 (*INJ* 3 [1963]:37).

became normal practice that some lectures held in Jerusalem were repeated at Tel Aviv and Haifa and vice versa. Over the years, hundreds of lectures have been given by INS members and guests at these meetings, mostly on ancient Jewish coins, and the coinage of cities of Roman Palestine, as well as on Byzantine, Islamic, Crusader, Ottoman and Israeli coinage. Other, exotic subjects have also been presented (e.g., Parthian and even Tasmanian coinage). These lectures exemplify the vigorous life of the Society.

On the occasion of a visit by a foreign scholar, guest lectures have been organized in an impromptu way; e.g., by W. Clain Stefanelli (1963), Warren C. Schultz (1992) and David Michael Metcalf (1994). These lectures have been attended by members and non-members alike.

Since the 1963 International Numismatic Convention, two other international conventions have taken place: the International Numismatic Convention on Greek Imperials (in 1983 in Kadman's memory; published in *INJ* 6–7 [1982–1983]) and the Paul Balog Conference on Islamic Numismatics (in 1988; published in *INJ* 10 [1988–1989]).

The Society awarded the biannual Leo Kadman Prize (established 1967) to distinguished numismatists between the years 1968 and 1973. The recipients were: Kanael, Kindler, Meyshan, Klimowsky, Avi-Yonah, Meshorer and Mildenberg. Also, two members of the INS, Kindler and Mildenberg, were given honorary membership. In 2003, the Tel Aviv Branch initiated the Arie Kindler Prize. The recipients thus far have been: Barag, Barkay, Rafi Dvir (Dabah), Haim Gitler, Spaer and Oren Tal.

The activities of the Israel Numismatic Society over more than 60 years have advanced modern numismatic research in the region. The Society's remarkable publication record has broadened understanding of Israel's ancient and modern economic and political history.

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Coin Denominations and Weight Standards in Fourth-Century BCE Palestine[1]

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Abstract
Epigraphic material of the fourth century BCE and other written sources are surveyed in order to identify the weight denominations and standards of contemporaneous Palestinian coins. It was found that there were probably local denominational systems and weight standards in the region, and that these were apparently based on the *sheqel* and its fractions. The Greek (Attic) denominational system and weight standard formerly associated with the coins were probably not known in Palestine.

This essay scrutinizes references to Greek (Attic) weight denominations and standards in fourth-century BCE Palestinian coins in modern scholarship. Careful examination of the contemporaneous epigraphic material at hand, however, suggests that it is best to view the coins of Edom (?), Judah, Samaria and Philistia as based upon a *sheqel* standard (Fig. 1).

THE CASE OF EDOM

In several of the Edomite ostraca allegedly discovered at Khirbet el-Qom the term *kesef* (*ksp* and *ksp*', silver) as references to silver money is noted.[2] The term *ksp* appears also in one of the Aramaic ostraca discovered at Tel Arad (Naveh 1981:168, No. 41, 1, 6 and 1[recto]). Units of *ksp* normally appear abbreviated in these ostraca, *š* for *sheqel* (*šql* / *šqln*), *r* for quarter (*rb*‘ / *rb*‘*n*), and *m* for *maneh* (*mnh* / *mnn*) or for *ma*‘*eh* (*m*‘*h* / *m*‘*n*).[3] In this respect it is worth noting that the late

1 This publication is supported by the Ancient Israel program of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures, Tel Aviv University.
I am indebted to André Lemaire for his valuable comments on a preliminary draft of this essay.

2 For *ksp* (and *ksp*'), cf. Lemaire 1996:19, No. 5, 4 (*sic*); 2002:130, No. 254, 1; p.181, No. 365, 3; Eph‘al and Naveh 1996:82, No. 180, 1; p. 90, No. 199, 1, 3, 4; p. 92, No. 201, 1.

3 For *š* = *šql* / *šqln*, cf. Lemaire 1996:19, No. 5, 5; 2002:162, No. 297, 1, 2; p. 164, No. 307, 3 (?); Eph‘al and Naveh 1996:68, Nos. 141, 1, 2; 142, 1; p. 82, No. 180, 2, 3, 5. Cf. also Lemaire 2002:60, No. 94, 3 for *šqln* (pl.) spelled in full.
For *r* = *rb*‘ / *rb*‘*n*), cf. Eph‘al and Naveh 1996:24, No. 6, 2; p. 26, No. 11, 3; p. 56, No. 106, 3; p. 60, No. 115, 3; p. 68, No. 140, 2; p. 80, No. 174, 3, 6 (recto); p. 82,

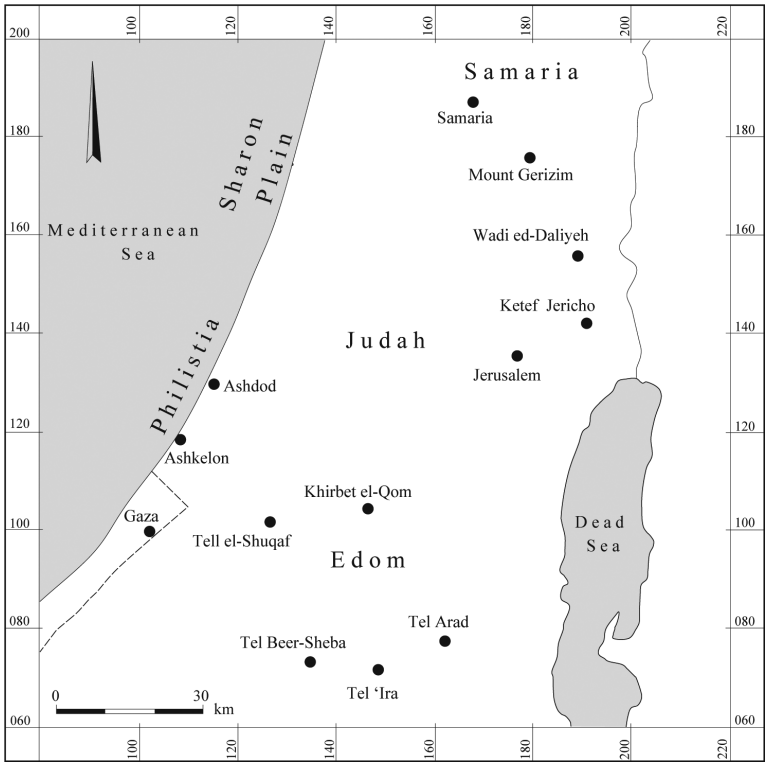


Fig. 1. Map of Palestinian sites mentioned in the text

fourth century papyrus discovered at Ketef Jericho is full of abbreviated *š* (for *sheqel*) and *r* (for quarter) on both verso and recto (Eshel and Misgav 2000). References for *sheqel*, quarter and *ma'eh* abbreviated as *š*, *r* and *m* can also be found in few of the Aramaic ostraca discovered in Tel Beer Sheba (Naveh 1973:81, Nos. 16, 2, 3; 17, 1; 1979:188, 37, 3, 4), and one of the Aramaic ostraca of Tel 'Ira (Naveh 1999:412, No. 8, 2, 3; Lemaire 2002:227–228). All the above suggests a vivid monetary economy in fourth century BCE Edom; the *sheqel* formed the basic weight standard, equal to four quarters, whereas the quarter was equivalent to six *ma'ehs*. This denominational system is in fact similar to that of the Attic weight standard, even though the weights of the *sheqel* and Attic *tetradrachm* differ. In the Attic system it was the *tetradrachm* which formed the

No. 179, 1, 3; p. 84, No. 184, 1–6; p. 86, No. 191, 3; Lemaire 2002:131–132, Nos. 255, 1 (?), 2–8; 256, 2. Cf. also Lemaire 2002:75, No. 129, 2 for *rb'* spelled in full but not necessarily in the contexts of silver money (see Eph'al and Naveh 1996:86, No. 189, 3, 4).

For m = *mnh* / *mnn* or *m'h* / *m'n*, cf. Eph'al and Naveh 1996:26, No. 16, 3; p. 62, No. 122, 1 (?); p. 68, Nos. 140, 1; 141, 1; p. 90, No. 199, 5.

basic unit of weight, equal to four *drachms*, with the *drachm* corresponding to six *obols*.

Until Gitler, Tal and van Alfen (this volume) Edomite coins had not been identified, so there were no finds to associate with the above epigraphic evidence. Now it appears clear that Edomite coins followed a *sheqel* weight standard. This is important because, as will be seen below, the coins from neighboring Philistia, Judah and Samaria were customarily identified as Attic standard denominational units (i.e., *tetradrachms*, *didrachms*, *drachms*, *obols* and *hemiobols*). The Attic standard was based on the actual weight of the respective coins, which appeared to approximate Attic weights, but not on epigraphic evidence.

THE CASE OF JUDAH

Epigraphic evidence in the Persian period for Judean use of the *sheqel* system may come from an ostracon from the City of David with the word *maneh* (Naveh 2000:12, No. 24). There is no indisputable reference in the Bible for the use of a Greek denominational system. Indeed, the Septuagint (Ἔσδρας β' 2:69) translates χρυσίου δραχμὰς for the "gold *drachms*" (*zhb drkmwnym*) found in Ezra (2:69) and Nehemiah (7:70, 71). Without doubt, however, Achaemenid *darics* are indicated.[4]

Recently, Ronen pointed out that the *yhd* coins have two weight groupings, with average weights of 0.26 g and 0.48 g, which do not harmonize with any Greek (Attic) weight standard (2003–2006:28–29). Ronen concluded that the *yhd* denominational system was based on the *sheqel* which at the end of the First Temple period was about 11.4 g (Kletter gave the weight as 11.33 g; Kletter 1998:139–140). Thus the coins averaging 0.48 g corresponded to the biblical *gera* (1/24 *sheqel*), whereas those averaging 0.26 g correspond to the biblical half-*gera* (1/48 *sheqel*).[5] Ronen thus rejected Meshorer's (and many others) designation of an Attic weight standard for the *yhd* coinage. The two recorded *yhd* coins of 2.72 g and 2.70 g (*TJC*:197, Nos. 2–3) would both become, in Ronen's view, quarter *sheqels*, rather than Meshorer's (and others) designation of these coins as *tetrobols*. In this respect it should be emphasized that apart from the *yhd* coins (Ariel 2002: Table 3) the archaeological evidence is scant. All we have is a stray

4 The Septuagint generally translates a *sheqel*, including the "*sheqel haqodesh*", by the word *didrachma* and *beqa* by *drachma*.

5 According to the Bible one *sheqel* denomination equals twenty *gera* (Exodus 30:13; Leviticus 27:25; Numbers 3:47; 18:16; Ezekiel 45:12). The archaeological evidence favors one *sheqel* equaling 24 *gera* (Kletter 1998:80–83, 140, Fig. 11). The two ratios for the *sheqel* / *gera* relationship — biblical 1:20 and archaeological 1:24 — suggests there were two different denominations, a *sheqel haqodesh* and an (unqualified) *sheqel*, the latter used in daily transactions.