

Important Coins of the Islamic World

To be sold by auction at:

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Day of Sale:

Thursday 2 May 2019
Starting at 12.00 noon

Important Coins of the Islamic World lots 1-127

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Nash House, St George Street, London W1S 2FQ

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Tuesday 30 April	10.00 am to 4.30 pm
Wednesday 1 May	10.00 am to 4.30 pm

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Lot 118 (front); lot 25 (back); lots 24,31,34,39,43 (inside front); lot 116 (inside back)

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Order of Sale

Thursday 2 May 2019

Starting at 12.00 noon

Arab-Byzantine, Arab-Sasanian and related issues	lots 1-5
Post-Reform Umayyad and Revolutionary Period	lots 6-19
Abbasid	lots 20-49
Spain, Portugal and North Africa	lots 50-78
Tulunid and Fatimid	lots 79-98
Qarmatid, Ayyubid and Mamluk	lots 99-102
Modern Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Iraq	lots 103-111
Ottoman	lots 112-117
Iran and the East	lots 118-125
Coin Die and Banknote Stamps	lots 126-127

Starting at 2.30 pm

Important Greek and Roman Coins lots 201-364

(See separate catalogue)

Important Coins of the Islamic World

2 May 2019

Starting at 12.00 noon



1

ARAB-LATIN, TEMP. SULAYMAN (96-99h)

Gold solidus/dinar, al-Andalus 98h

Obverse: In margin: mint and date; in field: *Muhammad ra- | sul Allah*

Reverse: Around eight-pointed star: FERITOS SOLI IN SPAN AN

Weight: 4.15g *References:* Bernardi 35Aa; Balaguer 42

Die rust and minor faults on obverse, otherwise good very fine and very rare

£7,000-10,000

With collector's ticket stating 'Sotheby's 74, part lot 260', although this provenance cannot be traced.

These rare bilingual solidi are the first gold coins from Muslim Spain to bear Arabic inscriptions.



2

ARAB-SASANIAN, KHUSRAW II TYPE

Drachm, MY (Mishan) 20YE = 32h

Obverse: Sasanian bust with name of Khusraw to right; *jayyid* in margin

Weight: 3.62g *References:* ANS 1986.126.12, *same dies* = SICA 1, p.7 (apparently incorrectly described as bearing the name and bust of Yazdigerd III)

Very fine, reverse better, extremely rare

£1,500-2,000

Two varieties of drachm were issued at Mishan in this year. The earlier was of standard Sasanian type with the obverse margin plain, but later it was decided to include the Arabic word *jayyid* in the second quadrant before the bust – possibly by modifying an existing die.

This is the first year in which Islamic silver coins were produced.



3

ARAB-SASANIAN, 'ABD AL-RAHMAN B. MUHAMMAD

Drachm, DA (Darabjird) 70YE = 82h

Obverse: In margin: *bismillah - rabb harasahu*

Weight: 3.44g *References:* Walker p.117, Mar.3 ; ICV 52

Some edge damage, otherwise almost very fine and very rare

£700-1,000

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4

ARAB-SASANIAN, AL-HAJJAJ B. YUSUF

Drachm, DA+P (Fasa) 71YE = 83h

Obverse: In second and third quadrants of margin: *bismillah* – MY (in Pahlawi)

Reverse: Pellets to either side of top star-and-crescent, DA to right, P to left of base of fire-altar

Weight: 3.80g *References:* SCC 131; *Silver Hoard of Damascus* 118; Curiel, R., 'Monnaie d'al-Hajjaj b. Yusuf à légende pehlevie,' *Revue Numismatique*, 1966, pp.321-328

Cleaned, minor edge clip, otherwise good very fine or better and extremely rare

£2,000-2,500

Both al-'Ush and Curiel proposed that the letters Pahlawi letters MN in the obverse margin may be an abbreviation for the Arabic *Mansur*, but offered different suggestions as to its significance. Curiel, who had access to a pierced and badly-preserved specimen, read the date as 79h and so identified 'Mansur' as a finance official known to have been active in Fars and Sistan between 75-82h. However, al-'Ush was able to demonstrate that the year should in fact be read as 71 – a Yazdigerd Era date equating to 83h, which would appear to be too late to coincide with Curiel's administrator. Instead, he proposed that 'Mansur' was an adjective meaning 'Victorious,' and pointed out that this coin was struck in the year when al-Hajjaj recaptured Darabjird from the rebellious 'Abd al-Rahman b. Muhammad. This also offers an explanation as to why al-Hajjaj's name is rendered not in Arabic but in Pahlawi, as on the coins issued there in the previous year by his recently-defeated opponent.



5

ARAB-SASANIAN, 'ABD AL-RAHMAN B. 'ABDALLAH

Drachm, AKWLA (al-Kufa) 79h

Obverse: In margin: *bismillah*

Reverse: fire-altar and attendants with crescent to left and star to right of flames, mint-name to *left*, date in Pahlawi numerals to *right*

Weight: 2.29g *References:* Album A28 RRR; Qaseer 312 *var.*

Evenly clipped but otherwise better than very fine and excessively rare

£1,500-2,000

On this extremely rare and unusual drachm the mint-signature and date are transposed from their normal positions on the reverse. The date is entirely composed of Pahlawi numerals and is to be read as '70+3+3+3', i.e 79h.



6

UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)

Dinar, 85h

Reverse: without pellet before *khams* in date

Weight: 4.27g *References:* Walker 196; ICV 163

Extremely fine and a rare date

£700-1,000

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7

UMAYYAD, TEMP. YAZID II (101-105h)

Dinar, 105h

Weight: 4.26g References: Walker 224; ICV 199

Almost uncirculated with some lustre, a key date

£3,000-4,000



8

UMAYYAD, TEMP. MARWAN II (127-132h)

Dinar, 132h

Weight: 4.25g References: Walker 252; ICV 226

Small area of tooling above reverse field, otherwise about extremely fine and very rare

£3,500-4,500



9

UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)

Dirham, without mint-name, 79h

Weight: 2.69g References: Klat 1; cf Morton and Eden auction 63, 22 April 2013, lot 10, same reverse die

Pin-marks in obverse border, very fine and extremely rare

£15,000-20,000

Although reformed gold dinars had been struck at Damascus since 77h, and a few mints had begun to produce the related silver dirhams in 78h, it appears that these new silver coins were not struck at the Umayyad capital until 79h. The coin offered here, therefore, has the distinction of belonging to what is almost certainly the very first issue of experimental post-Reform silver dirhams from Damascus.

Unlike mints in the former Sasanian lands, Damascus lacked a strong tradition of producing silver coins prior to the coming of Islam. At Damascus, therefore, the obvious prototype for the first post-Reform dirhams would have been the associated mintless dinars then being struck there, which probably explains why the very first of the new silver coins from Damascus - including the present coin - omit the mint-name, just as the gold dinars do. With more than forty other silver mints then active, however, the inconsistency of having mintless dirhams struck at Damascus alone must soon have become apparent, and the mint-name was quickly incorporated on all other silver struck there from 79h until the fall of the dynasty in 132h.



10
UMAYYAD, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)
Dirham, Arran 90h
 Weight: 1.96g Reference: Klat 27 (three examples listed)

Clipped, fine to good fine and very rare

£3,000-4,000



11
UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)
Dirham, Ard 82h
 Weight: 2.00g References: Klat 30 (two examples listed); ANS 1977.235.25, same dies

Reverse stained and some edge losses but the obverse very clear, good very fine/fine and extremely rare £4,000-6,000

The enigmatic mint of 'Ard' is one of the rarest Umayyad mint-names. When first published it was read as *Urdu*, meaning 'camp,' but Michael Bates subsequently proposed that 'Ard' was 'nothing more than a die-engraver's error for Ardashir Khurra,' noting some similarities between dirhams of Ard 82h and Ardashir Kurra 80h (Bates, *Mystery Mints of the Umayyads*, ONS Occasional Paper 22, 1987). Since Bates wrote, however, another dirham from 'Ard' dated 79h has come to light (Klat 29). This provides support for the idea that 'Ard' was deliberately engraved as such, since it is difficult to imagine that such a serious engraving error, which would entail no fewer than six letters being omitted by mistake, could have been committed twice in different years. Another possibility might be that 'Ard' is in fact an Arabic version of the Pahlawi ART, which was the mint-signature used on Arab-Sasanian drachms struck at Ardashir Khurra, in which case 'Ard' should be regarded as an abbreviation rather than an engraving error.



12
UMAYYAD, TEMP. HISHAM (105-126h)
Dirham, Ifriqiya 124h
 Reverse: crescent below field
 Weight: 2.80g Reference: Klat 108.b (two examples listed)

Very fine and very rare

£1,500-2,000



13
UMAYYAD/ABBASID, TEMP ABU'L-KHATTAB AL-SAMAH (141-143h)
Dirham, Ifriqiya 142h
Obverse: annulets O O O
Weight: 2.53g Reference: Lowick 269 var. (different annulets)

Stained, fair to fine and extremely rare

£2,500-3,000

The Governor of Africa at the time of the overthrow of the Umayyads was 'Abd al-Rahman b. Habib, who had been appointed in 127h. In 132h the new Abbasid caliph, al-Saffah, reconfirmed 'Abd al-Rahman's governorship - possibly because leading an army into Africa to remove him forcibly would have been impractical – and the latter remained in office until his death in 138h.

Although it seems that very few Umayyad dirhams from Ifriqiya had been reaching the caliphal treasury from about 120h onwards, 'Abd al-Rahman nevertheless continued to issue small numbers of Umayyad-type dirhams during the mid-130s, several years after the Umayyad caliphate in Damascus had been extinguished. The four short-lived governors who succeeded 'Abd al-Rahman, including Abu'l-Khattab al-Samah, continued this practice, of which the present coin is an extremely rare survivor.

Abbasid-style dirhams were eventually introduced in Ifriqiya during the year 144h (Lowick 271ff).



14
UMAYYAD, TEMP. MARWAN II (127-132h)
Dirham, Dimashq 132h
Weight: 2.86g References: Klat 376.a; SCC -

Almost extremely fine and extremely rare

£2,500-3,000



15
UMAYYAD, TEMP. SULAYMAN (96-99h)
Dirham, Sarakhs 98h
Obverse: pellet below la of la sharik lahu in third line
Weight: 2.69 Reference: Klat 458, same dies

Almost very fine and extremely rare

£800-1,200

The only specimen of this mint and date known to Klat was the example in his own collection.

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16

UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)

Dirham, al-Furat 82h

Weight: 2.85g Reference: Klat 504, same dies

Very fine to good very fine, rare

£800-1,000



17

UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)

Dirham, Nahr Tira 81h

Weight: 2.68g Reference: Klat 639, same reverse die

Good very fine, rare

£800-1,000



18

UMAYYAD, SULAYMAN B. 'ABD AL-MALIK (96-99h)

Uniface lead weight, dated 99h

Obverse: In field: *Muhammad ra- | sul Allah | sanat tis'a | wa tisa'in | ibn Muslim (?)*

In margin: *'amr bihi Sulayman amir al-mu'minin, Hayyan ibn Shurayh, Qudama (?)*

Weight: 87.11g

Some encrustation, very fine and extremely rare, apparently unpublished

£4,000-6,000

The inscriptions on this remarkable object are difficult to read in places. The version proposed here, where the final line of the field is interpreted as the patronymic following *Qudama* at the end of the margin, translates as 'Muhammad is the Messenger of God. In the year nine and ninety. Ordered by Sulayman, Commander of the Faithful, Hayyan b. Shurayh, [and] Qudama b. Muslim.'

Sulayman b. 'Abd al-Malik was caliph from 96-99h, and Hayyan b. Shurayh served as Finance Director between 99h and 101h, replacing 'Usama b. Zayd. Qudama b. Muslim, if this name is correctly read, has yet to be identified.

The legends on this object tell us nothing about its original purpose, but there is no evidence that it has been used as a seal, and the reverse has been carefully prepared to give a flat circular base. It has been suggested that it may have been prepared as an official treasury weight, equivalent to 20-dinars (*vide* Baldwin's of St James's auction 4, 9 May 2017, lot 110).



19
REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD, AL-KIRMANI B. 'ALI (fl. 127-128h)

Dirham, Marw 128h

Obverse: In margin: *mimma amr bihi* ☉ *al-amir* ☉ *al-Kirmanī* ☉ *bin 'Alī* ☉

Weight: 2.88g *References:* Klat 603 (three examples listed); SCC 772; Wurtzel 30; Album A208 RRR

Better than very fine and very rare

£2,000-2,500



20
ABBASID, TEMP. AL-MAHDI (158-169h)

Fals, al-Yamama 167h

Reverse: In field: *al-Khalifa al-Mahdi | Muhammad | Amir al-Mu'minin | Hajar*

Weight: 3.70g *Reference:* cf Morton & Eden auction 82, 20 October 2016, lot 26

Fine, reverse better, extremely rare

£700-1,000



21
ABBASID, TEMP. AL-MA'MUN (194-218h)

Dinar, without mint-name, 210h

Obverse: Reform type with double marginal legends

Reverse: letter *mim* below, double circle inside marginal legend

Weight: 3.47g *References:* cf Bernardi 116 (without *mim*); cf Lowick 454 (without *mim*)

Edge shaved, otherwise almost extremely fine and very rare

£1,200-1,500

The legends on this coin are almost identical to al-Ma'mun's mintless reform coinage, issued in Iraq between 206-210h. However, the presence of an extra letter on the reverse appears to be otherwise unknown for this series, and the calligraphy suggests that it may in fact be an issue from the Yemen. If so, the letter *mim* may refer to Muhammad b. Ziyad, *amir* of Yemen.



22
ABBASID, TEMP. AL-MA'MUN (194-218h)

Dirham, al-Raqqa 199h

Obverse: annulets oo o oo o oo o

Reverse: In field: *lillah Tahir* above; *'Amr ibn Yahya* below

Weight: 2.99g *Reference:* Lowick 653

Small patch of staining on obverse, very fine and very rare

£1,000-1,500

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‡23

ABBASID, AL-MUTAWAKKIL (232-247h)

Dinar, Jurjan 240h

Obverse: citing the heir *al-Mu'tazz billah*

Weight: 4.38g *Reference:* Bernardi type 185 (this mint not recorded)

Minor scuffs, very fine and of the highest rarity, apparently the only known Abbasid gold dinar from the mint of Jurjan
£20,000-25,000

With its origins dating back to the Stone Age, the city of Jurjan was situated about twenty miles south-east of the Caspian Sea. Both the Umayyads and Abbasids sporadically issued copper (and sometimes lead) fulus in Jurjan throughout the second century, and a few rare Abbasid dirhams were struck there during the 190s. Thereafter, the piece offered here appears to be the only known coin from Jurjan until the 'Alids of Tabaristan began to produce silver dirhams there in the 260s. No other gold coins were struck there until the Samanids issued a small number of dinars in Jurjan during the 320s and 330s.

Only a dozen mints struck gold coins during al-Mutawakkil's reign, most of which had also been active under his predecessors al-Wathiq and al-Mu'tasim. The historical sources do not suggest an obvious reason why a mint should have been opened at Jurjan in 240h, but another ephemeral Abbasid dinar mint was active in Dabil during the following year. Neither Jurjan nor Dabil is otherwise known as a mint for Abbasid gold, and it is tempting to speculate whether there may be some connection between the two.

At the time this coin was struck the veteran general Bugha al-Kabir was concluding a punitive expedition into Armenia and Georgia, which took him close to the Western fringes of the Caspian Sea. This would certainly explain why dinars might have been struck at Dabil, and indeed with the mint-name 'Arminiya' in 243, 246 and 247h. Bugha's campaigns began when he marched north from Diyar Bakr into southern Armenia in 237h, before moving north-west to Dabil where he remained for a month. In 238h Bugha departed Dabil and advanced north into Georgia, where he sacked Tiflis and killed its emir, Ishaq b. Isma'il. Thereafter, Bugha appears to have moved south-eastwards into Caucasian Albania, which borders the western shores of the Caspian Sea, defeating and capturing several local rulers en route.

Frustratingly, al-Tabari now turns his attention away from events in this region, and his accounts of the years 239h and 240h are very brief. We are told that another Caucasian ruler was sent to Samarra as a prisoner and executed there in 239h, but Bugha himself is not mentioned again until the year 244h, by which time he was evidently at Damascus. Might Bugha have continued along the Southern shore of the Caucasus through Daylam and Tabaristan, reaching Jurjan in 240h? There were certainly 'Alid uprisings in Jurjan during the 240s which led to the establishment of the Zaydi Imamate in Jurjan in 250h. These might explain why an Abbasid army - whether that led by Bugha or a different force - should have been sent to Jurjan at this time.



24

ABBASID, AL-MUTAWAKKIL (232-247h)

Dinar, Dimashq 241h

Obverse: citing the heir *al-Mu'tazz billah*

Weight: 4.16g *Reference:* cf Bernardi 185Ge (date not listed)

Very faint marks on reverse, otherwise extremely fine and lustrous, apparently unpublished

£4,500-5,000

Al-Mutawakkil struck coins on which his designated heir appears with the title *al-Mu'tazz billah* from 240h until his death in 247h. Bernardi only records the year 247h as being known for Damascus dinars of this type.



25
ABBASID, AL-MU'TAZZ (251-255h)
Donative double-dinar, without mint-name, 255h
Obverse: al-Mu'tazz billah – amir al-mu'minin – al-'izzat Allah (sic). Stylized bird, possibly a quail, walking left.
Reverse: sanat khams – wa khamsin – wa miatayn. Rabbit or hare crouching to left with flower in its mouth.
Weight: 9.15g (including loop-mount) Reference: cf David Museum, Copenhagen, C516 [a similar silver dirham dated 254h]
 = Morton and Eden auction 27, 14 June 2007, lot 210

Gold mount affixed at 2 o'clock on obverse and faint traces of previous mounting on rim at 12 o'clock, has been harshly cleaned in the past with numerous hairlines and scratches in fields, otherwise very fine to good very fine and of the highest rarity £200,000-250,000

Unique, and important both numismatically and historically, this is the earliest surviving Islamic gold coin struck as a multiple denomination; all earlier donative issues known today being struck at the same weight as regular currency dinars. It is also the earliest known Islamic gold donative which bears images of living things, and indeed one of only a tiny number of extant Abbasid presentation coins of any kind which include animals in their design.

ABU 'ABDALLAH MUHAMMAD B. JA'FAR was born in 232h, a younger son of the caliph al-Mutawakkil and his favourite slave concubine, Qabiha. Along with two of his brothers, al-Muntasir and al-Mu'ayyad, he was named as an heir to the caliphate early in al-Mutawakkil's reign. At first al-Muntasir, the eldest son, was designated heir apparent, but al-Mutawakkil's favour soon shifted towards al-Mu'tazz, who is named on the coinage by his personal name *Abu 'Abdallah* from 235-240h and with the title *al-Mu'tazz* from 240-247h. During the latter years of al-Mutawakkil's reign the rivalry between al-Muntasir and al-Mu'tazz became a proxy for the struggle between two competing court factions. Al-Mu'tazz was supported by the traditional Abbasid aristocracy including the Tahirids, while al-Muntasir was backed by the Turkish troops and commanders of the Palace guard.

Matters came to a head in 247h when al-Mutawakkil struck two decisive blows against al-Muntasir and the Turkish guard. Firstly, he drew up orders that the personal estates of one of the Turkish commanders, Wasif al-Turki, were to be confiscated and bestowed on al-Mutawakkil's favourite adviser, al-Fath b. Khaqan. Shortly afterwards, when al-Mutawakkil was too unwell to lead the Friday prayers at the end of Ramadan, he initially designated al-Muntasir to officiate in his place, but was soon persuaded to appoint al-Mu'tazz instead. Al-Mutawakkil continued to humiliate al-Muntasir ever more publicly, to the extent that he even threatened to kill him. Finally, a band of Turkish guards murdered al-Mutawakkil in the audience hall of the palace. Al-Fath b. Khaqan attempted to shield the caliph with his own body, but they were both cut down together. Al-Muntasir was named caliph, backed by Turkish swords, and so began the nine-year period known as the 'Anarchy at Samarra,' which nearly brought about the collapse of the Abbasid caliphate.

Al-Muntasir's reign was short-lived. Al-Mu'tazz and al-Mu'ayyad both swore oaths of loyalty to him on his accession in 247h. The Turkish commanders repeatedly urged al-Muntasir to compel both to write formal letters of abdication, fearing for their own position should al-Mu'tazz become caliph in future. Al-Muntasir eventually acquiesced, and both al-Mu'tazz and al-Mu'ayyad publicly renounced their claims to the caliphate in 248h, although al-Tabari reports that al-Muntasir only ordered this because he feared that his brothers might be killed by the Turks if he refused. In the event, however, al-Muntasir himself died later that year - probably from natural causes - without leaving a designated heir. His successor, chosen by the Turks, was a twenty-eight year old grandson of al-Mu'tasim, who became the new caliph al-Musta'in.

Al-Musta'in's caliphate began unpromisingly. On the very day that he received the oath of allegiance as caliph he had to contend with a serious riot in Samarra, during which his Turkish guards eventually subdued a mob shouting 'Victory to Mu'tazz!' There were serious losses on both sides, and al-Mu'tazz was kept under house arrest thereafter. These did not prevent further riots in Baghdad in 249h, because as al-Tabari explains: *'The people of Baghdad...had already been appalled by al-Mutawakkil's death at the hands of the Turks, and by how the Turks assumed control over the affairs of the Muslims. The Turks killed any caliph they wished to kill, and appointed instead whomever they wished. The people of Baghdad gathered together, shouted out in protest, and demanded action.'*

Meanwhile, rivalries between individual Turkish commanders now surfaced. Wasif al-Turki, al-Musta'in and a number of other Turkish leaders left Samarra for Baghdad, where they joined forces with the city's Tahirid governor. Their position threatened by this coalition, the remaining Turks in Samarra decided to release al-Mu'tazz and appointed him as their own caliph. Al-Mu'tazz quickly dispatched his brother to lay siege to Baghdad, which was invested for ten months before a settlement was negotiated whereby al-Musta'in would abdicate, in exchange for a lavish annual pension. By the end of 251h, al-Mu'tazz was finally sole caliph.

In spite of being another appointee of the Turkish soldiery, al-Mu'tazz proved a decisive and capable ruler. His potential rivals al-Musta'in and al-Mu'ayyad were both killed – al-Mu'tazz of all people surely knew that formal abdication was no barrier to becoming caliph – and he also took decisive action against several powerful Turkish commanders. However, the dire political situation left him chronically short of funds, and this was to prove his downfall. The settlement at the end of the siege of Baghdad had included an agreement to divide tax revenues between Baghdad and Samarra, and al-Mu'tazz found himself unable to meet these obligations. Meanwhile, his Turkish guards were demanding 50,000 dinars, in his desperation al-Mu'tazz approached his mother, Qabiha. Qabiha demurred, claiming that she only had a few promissory notes which would take time to redeem, and the Turks duly deposed al-Mu'tazz in yet another palace coup. He died of his injuries soon afterwards.

How does this remarkable coin fit into this picture of civil war and palace intrigues? It seems difficult to imagine that a gift intended for a governor or *wazir*, let alone a medallion to be worn by a hard-boiled Turkish mercenary to show his loyalty, would have depicted a quail and a rabbit with a flower in its mouth. It seems more likely, as the notes accompanying the similar silver example in the David Museum Collection argue, that these pictorial donatives were made for presentation to the women of the caliph's court: *'...The 'ulama (religious scholars) made sure that no depictions of animal life appeared in public view. Behind the scenes, however, the lives of the rich, in particular those of the ruler and his court, were concealed from the public gaze and censor. What went on in the harem was private and exempt from public examination. It is clear that this piece was struck as a special issue for the caliph to give to his wives and concubines... Both the quail and the rabbit are known for their fecundity and the large number of offspring they produce. This coin was probably seen as an inducement and reward for the ladies who were to give the caliph sons to add to his sense of security.'* [<https://www.davidmus.dk/en/collections/islamic/dynasties/abbasiderne/coins/c516?show=faq>].

Yet this explanation raises yet another intriguing question of its own. The David Museum coin is made of silver and of standard dirham weight, while the magnificent piece offered here is a double-weight specimen in gold. It seems difficult to imagine that the two pieces were intended to have equal status, in which case we are left with the conclusion that the present coin was intended for a female recipient of particularly high rank, and one who was close to al-Mu'tazz during his final weeks and months. It is impossible to do more than guess at who this may have been, but after al-Mu'tazz's death, when the Turkish commander Salih b. Wasif finally uncovered part of the treasure which Qabiha had amassed, he is said to have exclaimed, 'May God do such-and-such to her! Al-Mu'tazz's mother condemned him to death for want of the miserable sum of fifty thousand dinars, when she actually had in only one of her treasuries such wealth as this!' As a further indication of her colossal wealth, al-Tabari also reports that the sale of further treasures from Qabiha's holdings raised the sum of 500,000 dinars, which was sufficient to maintain the finances of both Samarra and Baghdad for several months. Stories such as these demonstrate that women at the Abbasid court could wield great political and financial power in their own right, and make their influence felt far beyond the harem. Al-Mu'tazz, who was born in Samarra and grew up in the court there, surely appreciated as well as anyone this kind of power was every bit as deserving of recognition as the swords of his Turkish guards.





26

ABBASID, AL-MU‘TAZZ (251-255h)

Dinar, Wasit 253h

Obverse: without name of heir

Weight: 3.46g *Reference:* cf Bernardi type 162 (for which Wasit is not recorded)

Damaged, with about one-sixth of coin missing (but not affecting mint and date), otherwise good fine and of the highest rarity £500-1,000

Although damaged, this unpublished coin appears to be the earliest known Abbasid dinar from the important mint of Wasit.



27

ABBASID, AL-MU‘TAZZ (251-255h)

Dinar, Wasit 254h

Obverse: In field: ‘Abdallah ibn | amir al-mu‘minin | letter sin

Weight: 4.25g *Reference:* Bernardi 163Jm

Traces of mounting at 12 o’clock on obverse, otherwise very fine and rare

£1,200-1,500



28

ABBASID, AL-MU‘TAMID (256-279h)

Dirham, Adana 273h

Obverse: Single marginal inscription containing mint and date; annulets oo o oo o oo o around

Weight: 2.88g

Cleaned, and has also been straightened with some weakness on both sides, otherwise very fine or better and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished £1,200-1,500

According to Diler, the only appearance of Adana in the coinage record occurred in 193h when silver and copper issues were struck there. On the present specimen the mint-name is written with two *alifs* as *Ādāna*.

With its single obverse margin, rather than the standard double margin seen on virtually all Abbasid dirhams of this period, it is tempting to view this coin as a special issue, perhaps made for presentation and to mark a particular event. The historian al-Tabari does indeed record that Yazaman b. Khadim, governor of Tarsus, was engaged in military campaigns on land against the Byzantines at about this time, although his entries for the years 273h and 274h are frustratingly brief. Yazaman evidently won a notable victory at a place which our sources call *Maskanayn*, an unidentified location whose name is perhaps to be interpreted at ‘the two settlements.’ Adana is no more than thirty miles from Tarsus, and while it is not possible to prove that this particular raid is directly connected with the striking of this unrecorded coin, it is clear that there was fighting between Muslims and Byzantines close to Adana at the time it was produced.



29

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, Harran 284h

Weight: 3.65g References: Bernardi 211Hj RRR = Miles, RIC 160, same obverse die

Slightly buckled and obverse flan flaw, pin-marks in fields, otherwise good very fine and very rare

£1,200-1,500



30

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, al-Rafiq 287h

Weight: 3.01g Reference: cf Bernardi 211Hn [date not listed]

Minor marks, about extremely fine and excessively rare, apparently unpublished

£2,000-2,500

This appears to be an unrecorded date for Abbasid gold from al-Rafiq.



31

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, Ra's al-'Ayn 288h

Weight: 3.87g Reference: Bernardi 211Hl; ANS 1962.125.22

Slightly buckled flan, minor pin-marks in fields, about extremely fine and extremely rare

£4,000-5,000

One of the rarest of all Abbasid gold mints, Ra's al-'Ayn produced a very small number of dinars for a short period between 285-290h. Bernardi recorded a total of just six gold coins struck at Ra's al-'Ayn throughout the three centuries spanned by his *Corpus*.



32

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 285h

Weight: 3.89g Reference: Bernardi 211Jh

Minor marks, good very fine

£600-800

All lots are subject to a Buyer's Premium of 20% on the hammer price plus VAT as appropriate. See our Conditions of Business for further details.



33
ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)
Dinar, Nisibin 284h
 Weight: 4.76g References: Bernardi 211Hg

Light crease, good very fine and extremely rare

£3,000-4,000



34
ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)
Dinar, Hims 292h
 Weight: 4.38g Reference: cf Bernardi 226Gd (date not listed)

Pin-marks in fields, otherwise better than very fine and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished

£5,000-6,000

Hims is another exceedingly rare mint for Abbasid gold. The mint was evidently still under Tulunid control two years before this coin was issued as Tulunid dinars of Hims dated 290h are known (Bernardi 230Ge), but it appears to have reverted to Abbasid control by the following year (Bernardi 228Ge, citing an Abbasid dinar of Hims 291h reported by Zambaur). The coin offered here, struck in a previously unrecorded year for the mint, confirms that Hims was indeed an Abbasid city once more by 292h.



35
ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)
Dinar, Harran 292h
Obverse: four pellets arranged above, below, and to left and right of field
 Weight: 3.95g References: Bernardi 226Hj

Pin-marks in fields, about extremely fine and rare

£1,000-1,200



36

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Harran 293h

Obverse: annulet in field above *ilaha* in first line

Reverse: annulet in field to left of *lillah* in first line

Weight: 4.48g *References:* Bernardi 226Hj; cf Qatar 1299 (without annulets)

Obverse die faults, otherwise extremely fine and very rare

£1,000-1,200

This variety with annulets in both fields appears to be unpublished.



37

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, al-Rafiq 290h

Weight: 3.23g *References:* Bernardi 226Hn; Qatar 1301

Good very fine and rare

£1,000-1,200



38

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, al-Masisa 289h

Weight: 4.09g *References:* Bernardi 226Fd, citing a single example of this date (= Markov 898)

Very fine and excessively rare

£4,000-5,000

This is the earliest recorded date for Abbasid dinars from the mint of al-Masisa.



39

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Makka 292h

Obverse: without pellet below field

Weight: 4.19g *References:* Bernardi 226Ef; *Treasures of Islam* 371, same reverse die

Cracked, and with porous surfaces from past cleaning, otherwise fine overall and extremely rare

£4,000-6,000



40

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dirham, Makka 295h

Weight: 2.76g References: cf SICA 10, 492 [294h]; cf ICA 9, 12 October 2004, lot 3293

Has been cleaned, minor edge splits, otherwise very fine and very rare

£2,000-3,000



41

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, Ardabil 318h

Obverse: In field: legends in four lines, letter *ra* above, two pellets below

Reverse: In field: pellet to either side of *lillah*, three horizontal bars between *Muhammad* and *rasul*, and horizontal bar below *al-Muqtadir billah*

Weight: 3.93g References: Bernardi 242Ka RR; Vardanyan 2013, 95

Very fine to good very fine, rare thus

£800-1,200



42

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, Barda'a 318h

Obverse: In field: legends in four lines, bar and pellets above, pellet below

Reverse: In field: pellet to either side of *lillah*, between *Muhammad* and *rasul*, and pellet and two bars between *rasul* and *Allah*

Weight: 3.26g References: Bernardi 242Kf, *this coin cited*; Vardanyan 2013, 96

Fine and very rare

£1,000-1,500

Ex Islamic Coin Auction 13, 30 October 2007, lot 168



43

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, Barda'a 319h

Obverse: In field: pellet and bar | *la ilaha illa Allah* | *wahdahu la sharik lahu* | *Abu'l- 'Abbas bin* | *Amir al-mu'minin* | pellet

Reverse: In field: pellet each side of *lillah* | horizontal bar below *Muhammad* | two horizontal bars below *rasul* | vertical and horizontal bar beneath *al-Muqtadir billah*

Weight: 3.68g References: Bernardi 242Kf RRR; Vardanyan 2013, 99 *var.*

Good very fine and extremely rare

£3,000-4,000

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44

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, Harran 300h

Obverse: pellet above field

Weight: 3.56g *Reference:* Bernardi 242Hj RRR, citing a single example of this date



Good very fine and very rare

£2,000-2,500

The mint-name on this specimen is engraved in a particularly elaborate way, with long loops on the *r* and *n* of *Harran* (see detail to left). A more conservative style was introduced at the mint in the following year.



45

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, San'a 297h

Obverse: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu* (i.e. naming neither the heir *Abu'l-'Abbas* nor the local governor *al-Muzaffar b. Hajj*)

Weight: 2.91g *Reference:* cf Bernardi 237El (date not listed)

Scuff in reverse field to the right of lillah, otherwise extremely fine and excessively rare, apparently unpublished

£2,500-3,000



46

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, al-Kufa 306h

Reverse: small pellet above *t* of *al-Muqtadir*

Weight: 4.27g *Reference:* Bernardi 242Jg, citing a single example of this date

Slightly ragged edge and with minor marks, good very fine and extremely rare

£2,500-3,000



The obverse die used to strike this extremely rare coin was originally engraved with the mint-name *al-Masisa*, which was then filled and modified for use at Kufa instead. The re-engraving of dies prepared for one mint but eventually used elsewhere is occasionally encountered on silver dirhams of this period, but is far rarer on gold dinars. It is particularly unusual to have the original mint-name so clearly legible.

Interestingly, a unique dinar of *al-Masisa* 307h (Morton & Eden auction 69, 10 April 2014, lot 70) also bears evidence of the mint-name having been altered on the die. The undertype is less clear on this coin, but *al-Kufa* would seem to be a possibility.

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47
ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)
Donative double-dirham, without mint or date
Obverse: In margin: Qur'an ix, 33; in field: *al-Muqtadir billah* above scrolled ω
Reverse: In margin: Qur'an xxx, 4-5; in field: *lillah Ja'far* above scrolled ω
Weight: 4.37g *References:* cf Ilisch T3 = Sotheby's, 12 October 1982, lot 74 (different marginal legends)

Ex-mount and with some surface corrosion and minor edge damage, otherwise about fine and retaining some old gilding, of the highest rarity £1,500-2,500

Ilisch records three donative coins of al-Muqtadir bearing this distinctive scrolled ω motif: a dinar, a double-dirham, and a single-dirham. Interestingly, the legends on all three are slightly different from each other, while those on the present coin are different again. The central legends and design remain constant, but the coin offered here is the only one to carry the familiar verses from the Qur'an which are also found in the margins on the regular Abbasid silver coinage.



48
ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)
Donative dirham with broad margins, Madinat al-Salam 305h
Reverse: letter *ha* below
Weight: 2.69g *Reference:* cf Ilisch DI 18 [306h]

Good very fine, rare £600-800



49
ABBASID, AL-MUTI' (334-363h)
Dinar, 'Athar 341h
Weight: 2.67g *References:* Album 1062 RRR; cf SICA 10, 314 [342h]

Edge smoothed, almost very fine and excessively rare £2,000-3,000

This appears to be an unpublished date for Abbasid dinars from the Arabian mint of 'Athar.

A FINE OFFERING OF ISLAMIC COINS FROM SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND NORTH AFRICA



50
UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, 'ABD AL-RAHMAN III (300-350h)
Dinar, al-Andalus 317h
Weight: 3.98g Reference: CUS 187

Edge marks (probably where removed from a claw-mount), slightly creased and some other minor marks, otherwise good very fine and extremely rare £2,000-3,000

This is the earliest date for gold dinars issued by the Umayyads of Spain.



51
UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, 'ABD AL-RAHMAN III (300-350h)
Dinar, al-Andalus 321h
Weight: 4.10g Reference: CUS 201

Almost extremely fine

£1,400-1,600



52
UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, 'ABD AL-RAHMAN III (300-350h)
Dinar, al-Andalus 324h
Obverse: citing Muhammad below
Weight: 4.10g Reference: cf CUS 200, for a coin with similar legends dated 321h

Almost extremely fine and extremely rare

£1,500-2,000

Ex Peus auction 415, 5 November 2015, lot 307.

The presence of the name *Muhammad* below the obverse requires explanation, because all gold and silver coins known to Miles between 322-329h cite a different official named *Sa'id*, while Muhammad is only named on coins date 320-321h, 330h, and 332-346h. One possibility, suggested by the Peus cataloguer, is that Muhammad and Sa'id may have served jointly as mint-master and deputy, and that either might be named in a given year depending on circumstances. However, there is clear evidence of die rust on the obverse of this piece, and this obverse die was also used to strike dinars dated 321h (including the preceding lot). Thus it seems more likely that this coin is in fact a mule, where obsolete obverse die naming *Muhammad* was mistakenly used in conjunction with a current reverse die dated 324h.



53

UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, 'ABD AL-RAHMAN III (300-350h)

Dinar, al-Andalus 330h

Obverse: Eight-pointed star above field, *Qasim* below

Reverse: Annulets above and below field

Weight: 3.95g *Reference:* cf *CUS* 217 (without star on obverse)

Edge shaved, otherwise very fine and rare

£700-1,000



54

HAMMUDID, 'ALI B. HAMMUD (as caliph, 407-408h)

Dinar, al-Andalus 408h

Reverse: In field: *wali al-'ahad | al-Imam 'Ali | amir al-mu'minin | al-nasir li-din Allah | Yahya*

Weight: 3.13g *Reference:* Prieto 63c, 'ejemplar unico'

Very fine and extremely rare

£1,800-2,200

'Ali b. Hammud was appointed governor of Sabta by the Umayyad caliph Sulayman b. al-Hakam *circa* 403h. Taking advantage of the anarchy during the last years of the Spanish Umayyads, 'Ali b. Hammud was able to capture Tangiers before crossing the Straits of Gibraltar and occupying Malaga. In 407h he seized Cordoba where he murdered Sulayman b. al-Hakam and proclaimed himself caliph. At first he was welcomed by the populace, but his support quickly fell away when a rival claimant from the Umayyad family, the future caliph 'Abd al-Rahman IV, appeared on the scene.

'Ali b. Hammud was assassinated in 408h and 'Abd al-Rahman IV briefly became caliph in his place. His reign lasted mere months, however, before he himself was deposed by al-Qasim b. Hammud, brother of 'Ali, who restored the line of the Hammudids to the caliphate.



55

HAMMUDID, YAHYA I B. HAMMUD (414-427h)

Dinar, al-Andalus 413h (sic)

Reverse: In field: *al-Imam Yahya | amir al-mu'minin | al-Mu'tali billah*

Weight: 3.76g *Reference:* Prieto 80a RR

Almost very fine and very rare, the only gold issue of Yahya I with a Spanish mint-name

£1,500-2,000

This very rare type may be muling of an old obverse die of al-Qasim b. Hammud from al-Andalus 413h with a new obverse die naming Yahya I, who became caliph in the following year. All other coins of Yahya I listed by Prieto bear the mint-name *Madinat Sabta*.



56

HAMMUDID, YAHYA I B. HAMMUD (414-427h)

Dinar, Madinat Sabta 415h

Obverse: fields plain

Reverse: In field: *Wali al-'ahad | al-Imam Yahya | al-Mu'tali billah | amir al-mu'minin | Idris*

Weight: 4.09g *Reference:* Prieto 82e 'ejemplar único'

Fine, extremely rare

£1,000-1,500



57

HAMMUDID, YAHYA I B. HAMMUD (414-427h)

Dinar, Madinat Sabta 419h

Obverse: In field: *Qa – sim* above and below

Reverse: In field: *Wali al-'ahad | al-Imam Yahya | al-Mu'tali billah | amir al-mu'minin | Idris*

Weight: 4.35g *References:* Prieto 85c; *Monedas Andalusias* 1459

Very fine or better, rare

£800-1,200



58

'ABBADID, 'ABBAD B. MUHAMMAD, AL-MU'TADID (433-461h)

Dinar, al-Andalus 439h

Obverse: In field: *al-Hajib || Isma'il* above and below

Reverse: In field: *al-Mu'tadid || billah* above and below

Weight: 3.40g *Reference:* Prieto 397a

Edge marks, very fine and rare

£700-1,000



59

'ABBADID, 'ABBAD B. MUHAMMAD, AL-MU'TADID (433-461h)

Dinar, al-Andalus 457h

Obverse: In field: *al-Zafir || al-Mu'ayyad billah* above and below

Reverse: In field: *al-Mu'tadid || billah* above and below

Weight: 3.92g *Reference:* Prieto 400c

Good very fine, rare

£800-1,200



60

'ABBADID, 'ABBAD B. MUHAMMAD, AL-MU'TADID (433-461h)

Dinar, al-Andalus 457h

Obverse: In field: *al-Zafir* || *al-Mu'ayyad billah* above and below

Reverse: In field: *al-Mu'tadid* || *billah* above and below

Weight: 3.86g *Reference:* Prieto 400f, 'ejemplar único'

Faint edge marks, very fine to good very fine, very rare

£800-1,200



61

'ABBADID, ABU'L-QASIM MUHAMMAD B. 'ABBAD, AL-MU'TAMID (461-484h)

Dinar, al-Andalus 461h

Obverse: In field: *al-Hajib* || *Siraj al-dawla* | *Hashim* above and below

Reverse: In field: *al-Zafir* || *al-Mu'ayyad billah* above and below

Weight: 4.03g *Reference:* Prieto 402a, 'ejemplar único'

Good very fine and extremely rare

£1,500-2,000

This extremely rare variety was only issued in the first year of al-Mu'tamid's rule.



62

'ABBADID, ABU'L-QASIM MUHAMMAD B. 'ABBAD, AL-MU'TAMID (461-484h)

Dinar, al-Andalus 464h

Obverse: In field: *al-Hajib* || *Siraj al-dawla* | *Hashim* above and below

Reverse: In field: *al-Mu'tamid 'ala-'llah* || *al-Mu'ayyad bi-nasr Allah*

Weight: 4.00g *Reference:* Prieto 403d, 'ejemplar único'

Very fine to good very fine, very rare

£1,000-1,500



63

'ABBADID, ABU'L-QASIM MUHAMMAD B. 'ABBAD, AL-MU'TAMID (461-484h)

Dinar, Madinat Ishbiliya (Seville) 476h

Obverse: In field: *al-Rashid* below

Reverse: In field: *al-Mu'tamid 'ala-'llah* || *al-Mu'ayyad bi-nasr Allah*

Weight: 3.74g *Reference:* Prieto 412g, 'ejemplar único'

Obverse die rust, good fine to very fine, very rare

£800-1,200

All lots are subject to a Buyer's Premium of 20% on the hammer price plus VAT as appropriate. See our Conditions of Business for further details.



64

SPAIN, CASTILLA, TEMP. ALFONSO VII (c.544-548h)

Dinar, Bayyasa 548h

Obverse: In field: *Allah | la ilaha illa | Muhammad rasul Allah | Allah wali al-din | amuna*

Obverse: In margin: *Qur'an iii.85 (part)*

Reverse: In field: *al-Imam | 'Abd | Allah | amir al-mu'minin | al-'Abbasi | letter sin*

Reverse: In margin: *bismillah duriba hadha l-dinar (sic) bi-Bayyasa 'alm thaman wa arba'in wa khams mi'at*

Weight: 3.87g *References:* Album M407; Diler -

Published: <https://www.dynastycollection.co.uk/portfolio-item/25-al-murabitun-partisans/#tab-id-2> (where incorrectly dated 542h and with reverse margin wrongly read)

Good very fine and excessively rare

£22,000-28,000

The city of Baeza is located in the Spanish province of Jaen, and situated high on a cliff about three miles from the right bank of the Guadalquivir river. It was a large and important Muslim city during the 5/11th-6/12th centuries when some estimates suggest that as many as 50,000 people may have lived there – three times its present-day population.

Baeza was captured from the Hudids in 541h by Alfonso VII of Castille, who re-established its Christian bishopric (originally instituted in Visigothic times but long suppressed under Muslim rule) and built a cathedral there. Twelve years later, however, the Muslims retook the city and Alfonso's new cathedral was converted into a mosque. For a further seventy years the city remained under Muslim control until it was retaken by Ferdinand III. Baeza suffered extensively during the fighting and never regained its former significance, its bishopric being merged with that of Jaen soon afterwards.

With the possible exception of a single Almoravid dinar dated 497h (Hazard 106), the only known coins from Bayyasa date from this twelve-year period between 541-553h when the city was under Christian control. Although there is nothing overtly Christian about the legends on these coins, dinars issued between 544-546h include the remarkable phrase *bi- 'ayar Qastiliya*, 'according to the standard of Castille,' confirming that the city was indeed subject to Castilian authority at this time. The coins themselves, however, are still very similar to contemporary Almoravid issues in their style and legends. The only secular ruler acknowledged on them is named as *al-'Abbasi*, identified by the 'Dynasty Collection' cataloguer as the Abbasid caliph al-Muqtafi. This would be puzzling, given that Spain had no history of allegiance to the Abbasid caliphate while al-Muqtafi's influence barely extended beyond Baghdad at this time, unless this very distance made him a sufficiently neutral figure as to be acceptable to both Christians and Muslims.



65

KINGS OF MERTOLA AND SILVES, AHMAD B. QASI (fl. 539-546h)

Qirat, Martola, undated

Obverse: mint-name in fourth line

Reverse: governor's name in second line

Weight: 0.94g *Reference:* Gomes 01.01

Good very fine and rare

£600-800



66

KINGS OF MERTOLA AND SILVES, AHMAD B. QASI (fl. 539-546h)

Qirat, Martola, undated

Obverse: three-line inscription within square

Reverse: mint-name at end of fourth line

Weight: 0.97g *Reference:* Gomes 01.04

Toned, good very fine and rare

£600-800



67

KINGS OF MERTOLA AND SILVES, SIDRAY B. WAZIR (546-552h)

Qirat, Shilb (Silves), undated

Obverse: *ibn Wazir* in third line

Reverse: mint-name *Shilb* in fifth line

Weight: 0.86g *Reference:* Gomes 03.02, 'Muito rara'

Toned, good very fine and very rare

£700-1,000



68

SPAIN, CASTILLA, ALFONSO VIII (AD 1158-1214)

Maravedi alfonsi or Dobla, Tulaitula (Toledo), year 1232 of the Safar Era

Weight: 3.61g Reference: Cayon 1027

Traces of mounting, fine to good fine and rare

£700-1,000



69

NASRID, YUSUF I (734-755h)

Dinar, without mint or date

Weight: 4.67g References: Lorente 8; Album 410; ICV 632

Good very fine and rare

£1,500-2,000



70

ALMORAVID, YUSUF B. TASHFIN (480-500h)

Dinar, Madinat Qurtuba (Cordoba) 492h

Weight: 4.07g Reference: Hazard 113

Test cut in edge, almost very fine and rare

£700-1,000



71

ALMORAVID, YUSUF B. TASHFIN (480-500h)

Dinar, Qurtuba (Cordoba) 498h

Weight: 4.00g Reference: Hazard 145

Faint edge marks, otherwise good very fine and rare

£1,000-1,500



72

ALMORAVID, 'ALI B. YUSUF (500-537h)

Dinar, Balansiya (Valencia) 505h

Weight: 4.02g Reference: Hazard 225

Good fine

£700-1,000



73

ALMORAVID, 'ALI B. YUSUF (500-537h)

Dinar, Ighranata (Granada) 518h

Weight: 3.97g Reference: Hazard 250 (citing only two references for this date)

Edge nick, very fine to good very fine and rare

£800-1,200



74

ALMORAVID, 'ALI B. YUSUF (500-537h)

Dinar, al-Jazira (Algeciras) 508h

Weight: 4.02g Reference: Hazard 232

Almost extremely fine, rare

£1,000-1,500



75

ALMORAVID, 'ALI B. YUSUF (500-537h)

Dinar, al-Mariya (Almería) 531h

Weight: 4.19g ; Reference: Hazard 358

Good very fine

£500-800



76

ALMORAVID, 'ALI B. YUSUF (500-537h)

Dinar, Ishbiliya (Seville) 537h

Obverse: with name of Tashfin b. 'Ali as heir

Weight: 3.91g *Reference:* Hazard 395

Minor edge marks, very fine to good very fine and rare

£1,000-1,500



77

ALMORAVID TAIFAS, ANONYMOUS (c.541-546h)

Dinar, without mint-name, [5]44h

Obverse: In field: *la ilaha illa Allah | Muhammad rasul Allah | al-amr kullihu lillah | la quwwa illa billah*

Weight: 3.43g *References:* Vives 2001 var.; Album 405; cf Stephen Album auction 14, 21 September 2012, lot 227

Good very fine and rare

£1,000-1,500



78

RIYAHID OR JAMI'ID, AL-RASHID B. RAFI' (fl. 517-551h)

Dinar, Qabis 534h

Obverse: In field: *al-amir al-Rashid | ibn Rafi'*

Weight: 3.91g *Reference:* Album 477 RRR

Die faults visible on obverse, otherwise very fine and of the highest rarity

£2,500-3,000

Ex Peus auction 414, 23 April 2015, lot 381

Al-Rashid b. Rafi' was an Arab governor based at Qabis (Gabès in present-day Tunisia). His name was read as *Rashid b. al-Rashid* by Hazard, who also corrected the reading of the mint-name from the earlier suggestion of *Qadis* (Cadiz). The present coin appears to be the earliest known dinar struck by al-Rashid, for whom Album recorded dinars struck between 537h and 551h, and seems to be unique.



79

TULUNID, HARUN B. KHUMARAWAYH (283-292h)

Dinar, Halab 284h

Weight: 3.47g References: Bernardi 215Gb RRR = Qatar II, 2328, same dies

Crudely struck, fine and extremely rare

£700-1,000



80

FATIMID, AL-MAHDI (297-322h)

Dinar, al-Qayrawan 297h

Weight: 4.15g Reference: Nicol 23

Very fine and very rare, the first year of al-Mahdi's reign

£3,000-4,000

Qayrawan was captured for the Fatimids in 296h by Abu 'Abdallah al-Shi'i, a staunch supporter of the Fatimid cause who had long fought and intrigued against the Aghlabids in North Africa. Al-Mahdi was recognized as Fatimid caliph in 297h, but soon came to view the man who paved his way to power as a threat and had al-Shi'i was murdered in 298h.



81

FATIMID, AL-MAHDI (297-322h)

Dinar, al-Qayrawan 302h

Weight: 4.00g Reference: Nicol 28

Good fine and a rare early date

£700-1,000



82

FATIMID, AL-MANSUR (334-341h)

Quarter-dinar, al-Mahdiya 337h, month of Sha'ban

Weight: 1.04g Reference: Nicol 238

Edge ragged between 9 o'clock and 12 o'clock on obverse, otherwise extremely fine and very rare

£800-1,200



83

FATIMID, AL-MANSUR (334-341h)

Quarter-dinar, al-Mahdiya 338h, month of Jumada al-Awwal

Weight: 1.01g Reference: cf Nicol 247 (month of Jumada al-Akhir)

Traces of mounting at 12 o'clock on obverse, otherwise very fine and apparently unpublished

£800-1,200

Although Nicol records four fractional dinars of this mint and date issued during Jumada al-Akhir, this appears to be the first recorded example struck in the month of Jumada al-Awwal.



84

FATIMID, AL-MANSUR (334-341h)

Dinar, al-Mansuriya 340h

Weight: 4.13g Reference: Nicol 218

A few scratches in fields and edge marks, almost very fine

£700-1,000



85

FATIMID, AL-MU'IZZ (341-365h)

Dinar, al-Mansuriya 342h

Weight: 4.11g Reference: Nicol 388

Small edge kink and possibly once mounted, otherwise very fine and rare

£800-1,200

This rare and attractive type was struck at al-Mansuriya between 341h and 343h, and is notable for the extra, strongly Shi'ite legends in the middle of the three bands of concentric legends on each side. That on the obverse reads *muha sunnat Muhammad sayyid al-mursalin wa warith majd al-a'imma al-mahdiyyin*, 'Revivifier of the sunna of Muhammad, pre-eminent of the messengers, and heir of the rightly-guided imams,' while the reverse proclaims *wa 'Ali bin Abi Talib wasiyy al-rasul wa'l-na'ib al-fadul wa zawj al-zahra al-batal*, 'Ali is the nominee of the Prophet and the representative of the most radiant Virgin.'



86

FATIMID, AL-MU'IZZ (341-365h)

Half-dirham, Barqa 358h

Weight: 1.42g Reference: Nicol -, cf Morton and Eden auction 73, 23 April 2015, lot 120

Very fine or better and extremely rare

£700-1,000



87

FATIMID, AL-MU'IZZ (341-365h)

Dirham, Filastin 361h

Weight: 3.01g Reference: Nicol 341, citing a single example of this date

Fair, mint and date clear, extremely rare

£800-1,200

Qarmatid silver and gold issues are also known from Filastin for this year.



88

FATIMID, AL-'AZIZ (365-386h)

Dinar, Filastin 369h

Weight: 4.16g Reference: Nicol 672

Edge filed, otherwise good very fine and rare

£1,000-1,500



89

FATIMID, AL-'AZIZ (365-386h)

Dinar, Filastin 370h

Weight: 4.08g Reference: Nicol 673

Wavy flan, otherwise very fine and rare

£1,000-1,500



90

FATIMID, AL-'AZIZ (365-386h)

Dinar, Filastin 376h

Weight: 4.15g Reference: Nicol 678

Almost very fine, rare

£800-1,200

All lots are subject to a Buyer's Premium of 20% on the hammer price plus VAT as appropriate. See our Conditions of Business for further details.



91
FATIMID, AL-'AZIZ (365-386h)
Dinar, Filastin 380h
Weight: 4.16g Reference: Nicol 680

About very fine, rare

£800-1,200



92
FATIMID, AL-HAKIM (386-411h)
Dinar, Misr 387h
Obverse: In field: *al-Mansur | abu 'Ali al-Imam | al-Hakim bi-amr Allah | amir al-mu'minin*
Reverse: In field: *la ilaha illa Allah | wahdahu la sharik lahu | Muhammad rasul Allah | 'Ali wali Allah*
Weight: 4.13g Reference: Nicol 1072, citing two examples

Good fine, an evenly-struck example of this extremely rare type

£1,500-2,000

This very rare issue, produced only in the first two years of al-Hakim's reign, features four-line inscriptions in the fields on both sides as opposed to the standard two-line legends found on most of al-Hakim's coinage. Only a handful of dinars of this type are recorded, of which this is the rarer, later year.



93
FATIMID, AL-HAKIM (386-411h)
Dinar, Tabariya 394h
Weight: 3.97g Reference: cf Nicol 1015 [395h]

Very good and excessively rare, apparently unpublished

£2,000-3,000

This appears to be an unrecorded date for the rare mint of Tabariya (present-day Tiberias in Palestine).



94
FATIMID, AL-ZAHIR (411-427h)
Dinar, Filastin 423h
Obverse and reverse: letter *zayn* in centres
Weight: 4.09g Reference: Nicol 1503

Fine to good fine, rare

£1,000-1,500

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95
FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)
Dinar, Barqa 448h
Weight: 4.17g Reference: Nicol 1701

Extremely fine and extremely rare

£12,500-15,000

Ex Baldwin's 'Classical Rarities of Islamic Coinage' auction, 25 April 2012, lot 114.

Barqa is the Arabic form of the Greek *Barce*, a city in Cyrenaica famed in antiquity as the source of the silphium plant, which appears on many ancient Greek coins produced there. The Fatimids were the only Islamic dynasty who issued gold and silver coins at Barqa, and this is the latest known date in which the mint was operational.

The Baldwin's cataloguer suggested that this dinar may have been struck when al-Mustansir was attempting to recapture Tunisia from the Zirids, who rebelled against the Fatimids during the 440s.



96
FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)
Dinar, Halab 446h
Weight: 3.64g Reference: Nicol 1710

Struck on a wavy flan with some marginal weakness, good very fine and rare

£1,000-1,200



97
FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)
Dinar, Sabra 440h
Weight: 4.05g References: Nicol 1750; Hazard 2

Slightly buckled flan, very fine and rare

£700-1,000



98

FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR / AL-BASASIRI (450-451h)

Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 450h

Obverse: In field: *Ma'add* | 'Abd Allah wa waliyat | *al-Imam Abu Tamim* | *al-Mustansir billah* | *Amir al-Mu'minin*

Reverse: In field: 'Ali | *la ilaha illa Allah* | *wahdahu la sharik lahu* | *Muhammad rasul Allah* | *wali Allah*

Weight: 3.51g *Reference:* cf Nicol 2092

Edge shaved, double-struck on obverse and some scrapes on reverse but with mint and date clearly legible, fine overall, historically important and of the highest rarity £4,000-6,000

Arslan al-Basasiri was a Turkish general who served the Buwayhids in Baghdad until their overthrow by the Seljuqs in 447h. Fearing the new Seljuq regime, Basasiri offered his services to the Fatimids who promised him military and financial aid to stage a coup in the Abbasid capital. His chance came in 450h when the Seljuq Sultan, Tughril Beg, was away from Baghdad, leaving al-Basasiri able to occupy the city with only a small force. Al-Basasiri duly had the Fatimid al-Mustansir acknowledged in the Friday prayers, and also compelled the Abbasid caliph to sign a document acknowledging that the Fatimids should be the rightful caliphs as long as their line endured. Al-Basasiri held Baghdad for the Fatimids for almost exactly a year, before the return of Tughril Beg and his army in 451h brought the city firmly back under Seljuq control.



99

QARMATID, UNCERTAIN ISSUER

Dirham, Tabariya 358h

Obverse: In field: *la ilaha illa* | *Allah wahdahu* | *la sharik lahu* | *al-Sadat* | *al-Rusa* | *Qara* (?)

Reverse: In field: *lillah* | *Muhammad* | *rasul Allah* | *Sala Allah 'alayhi* | *wa 'ala Allah* | *al-Muti' lillah* | *ra – kaf*

Weight: 3.09g *Reference:* cf Vardanyan 5 [dated 359h]

Struck off-centre, fine to good fine for issue and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished

£1,500-2,000

The legends on this unpublished coin, which appears to be the earliest known Qarmatid issue from Tabariya, are similar to those on coins struck in the following year except for the enigmatic letters below the fields on each side. The significance of these is unclear. It is possible that *Qara...*, if correctly read, might be part of a personal name similar to the well-known *Qaratekin* seen on Samanid coins (it surely cannot be short for *Qaramita?*), although it has not been possible to identify a plausible candidate. The letters on the reverse could equally be *zain* and *dal* rather than *ra* and *kaf* as given here.



100

QARMATID, AL-HASAN B. AHMAD (fl. 361-364h)

Dinar, Filastin 361h

Obverse: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Sadat al-ru'asa*

Reverse: In field: *lillah | Muhammad rasul Allah | sala Allah 'alayhi | wa 'ala alihi | al-Muti' lillah | al-Hasan b. Ahmad*

Weight: 3.28g *Reference:* Vardanyan 11

Good very fine and rare

£2,500-3,000



101

AYYUBID, SALADIN (567-589h)

Dinar, Dimashq 583h

Obverse: in inner margin: *Salah al-dunya wa'l-din Sultan al-Islam wa'l-muslimin*; in centre: *al-malik al-nasir | Yusuf bin Ayyub*

Reverse: in centre: *al-Imam al-nasir | amir al-mu'minin*

Weight: 3.44g *Reference:* Balog 79

Obverse flan crack, very fine to good very fine and extremely rare

£6,000-8,000

This famous type has long been associated with his victory over the Crusaders at the battle of Hattin which took place in this year, where the True Cross was captured and after which Jerusalem itself was surrendered to Saladin's forces. Balog notes that Saladin's adoption of the extra titles of *Sultan al-Islam wa'l-muslimin* are particularly appropriate in the context of these events.

This is the only gold coinage issued by Saladin in Syria.



102

BURJI MAMLUK, YALBAY or BILBAY (872h)

Ashrafi, mint and date missing

Obverse: in two lines: *[al-Sulta]n al-Malik al-Z[ahir] | Abu Sa'id Yalbay 'azz nasrahu* | traces of unread word

Weight: 3.42g *References:* Balog, *Coinage of the Mamluk Sultans: Additions and Corrections* 800B; Album 1023 RRR

Good very fine and extremely rare

£2,000-2,500

Gold coins of Yalbay (whose name is also given as Bilbay in some references) are among the greatest rarities of the Mamluk series. Balog knew of no coins whatsoever of this short-lived sultan when he finished his work on the coinage of the Mamluks in 1964, but he was able to include a single gold ashrafi in the *Additions and Corrections* published in 1970. It is thought that some three or four specimens, including the piece offered here, are known today.

Yalbay succeeded Khushqadam, who died of dysentery in 872h. Unable to overcome the influence of other mamluks recruited by his predecessor, he reigned for less than two months before being deposed in favour of another ephemeral ruler, Timurbugha, who was himself overthrown later in the same year by Qa'itbay. While Timurbugha was allowed to live on in honourable retirement, Yalbay was less fortunate and died in 873h.

All lots are subject to a Buyer's Premium of 20% on the hammer price plus VAT as appropriate. See our Conditions of Business for further details.



103
EGYPT, FUAD I (AD 1922-1952)
Gold 500-piastres, 1340h (AD 1922)
 Weight: 42.65g Reference: KM 342

Almost uncirculated and rare [1,800 struck]

£1,200-1,500



104
EGYPT, REPUBLIC (AD 1953-1958)
Gold five-pounds, 1374h (AD 1955)
Obverse: Ancient Egyptian charioteer riding to right, holding drawn bow
 Weight: 42.65g Reference: KM 388

Struck in yellow gold, minor hairlines otherwise almost as issued

£1,200-1,500

Ex Sotheby's, 28 April 1982, lot 412 (offered with envelope)



105
EGYPT, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC (AD 1958-1971)
Gold five-pounds, 1379h (AD 1960)
Obverse: Aswan Dam
 Weight: 42.61g Reference: KM 402

Virtually uncirculated and scarce [5,000 struck]

£1,200-1,500



106
EGYPT, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC (AD 1958-1971)
Gold five-pounds, 1384h (AD 1964)
Obverse: representation of the Diversion of the Nile
 Weight: 25.97g Reference: KM 408

Minor edge knock, about uncirculated

£800-1,200



107
EGYPT, ARAB REPUBLIC (AD 1971-)
Gold five-pounds, 1396h (AD 1976)
Obverse: Bust of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia three-quarters right
 Weight: 25.97g Reference: KM 459

About uncirculated

£700-1,000



108

MUSCAT AND OMAN, SA'ID B. TIMUR (AD 1932-1970)

Gold saidi riyal, 1390h (AD 1970)

Weight: 46.51g Reference: KM 31b

Virtually as struck and rare [350 issued in gold] £1,500-2,000

Ex Sotheby's, 28 April 1982, lot 424 (offered with envelope)



109

SAUDI ARABIA, TEMP. 'ABD AL-'AZIZ B. SA'UD (AD 1926-1953)

Gold bullion four-pounds, Philadelphia, undated (circa 1945-1946)

Reverse: weight and fineness in three lines

Weight: 32.03g Reference: KM 34

Extremely fine and scarce

£1,000-1,200



110

SAUDI ARABIA, KHALID B. 'ABD AL-'AZIZ (AD 1975-1982)

Proof gold medal, 1395h (AD 1975)

Obverse: Bust of King Faisal b. 'Abd al-'Aziz (who was assassinated in 1975)

Reverse: View of the Holy Mosque of Makka

Weight: 50.11g

Surfaces somewhat cloudy, otherwise virtually as struck and in original plastic capsule of issue

£1,200-1,500



111

IRAQ, REPUBLIC

Proof gold 100-dinars, 1399h (AD 1979)

Reverse: International Year of the Child

Weight: 26.12g Reference: KM 167

Slightly misty surfaces, otherwise almost as struck

£700-1,000



112
OTTOMAN, MEHMED II (SECOND REIGN, 855-886h)
Sultani, Qustantaniya 882h
 Weight: 3.54g Reference: Pere 79

Extremely fine with some lustre and very rare

£5,000-8,000

One of the classic rarities of the series, this is an example of the earliest Ottoman gold coin struck.



113
OTTOMAN, SELIM I (918-926h)
Sultani, al-Ruha 918h
 Weight: 3.46g Reference: cf Pere 120

Good very fine and extremely rare

£2,000-3,000

Ex Stephen Album Rare Coins auction 20, 18 September 2014, lot 433.



114
OTTOMAN, MAHMUD II (1223-1255h)
Sultani, Jaza'ir 1237h
 Weight: 3.21g References: Pere 739; Artuk 1981; KM 66

Good very fine, rare

£800-1,000



115
OTTOMAN, 'ABD AL-MAJID (1255-1277h)
Bronze medal, by Robertson, for the Restoration of Hagia Sophia (Tamirat-I Aya Sofya), 1265h (AD 1849)
Obverse: Toughra within wreath
Reverse: View of Hagia Sophia with FOSSATI RES – ROBERTSON SC. on exergual line; Turkish legend and date below
 Weight: References: cf Pere 1092 (in gold); Erureten p. 186

Patchy toning, some scratches and small patch of verdigris by FOSSATI, very fine and rare

£400-600

Gaspare and Giuseppe Fossati, who are named on the exergual line on the reverse of this medallion, were the architects responsible for the two-year restoration of Hagia Sophia.

[All lots are subject to a Buyer's Premium of 20% on the hammer price plus VAT as appropriate. See our Conditions of Business for further details.](#)



116

OTTOMAN, 'ABD AL-'AZIZ (1277-1293h)

Silver medal, by Kenning, for the Opening of the Railway between Izmir and Aydin, 1280h (AD 1864)

Obverse: Tughra with date (1280h) below

Reverse: Steam locomotive to right with KENNING, LONDON below rails, Turkish legend giving details of the route below

Weight: 30.48g *References:* Moyaux 404; cf Künker auction 289, 14 March 2017, lot 2059

Good extremely fine and attractively toned, an extremely rare medal

£1,500-2,000



117

OTTOMAN

A gold religious talisman or amulet, probably 12th/18th century

Of teardrop form, with a central medallion surrounded by four concentric rings divided into nineteen cells:

Outer margin: al-malik – al-'azim – al-jabbar – al-mutakabbir – al-muhaymin – al-qahhar – al-'ali – al-kabir – al-muta'ali – al-qadir – al-muqtadir – al-hakam – al-'adil – al-hasib – al-halim – al-'aziz – al-khabir – al-mudhil – al-mustaqim

Third margin: (in individual letters): bismillah al-rahman al-rahim

Second margin: (in individual letters): fard - hay - qayyum - hakam - 'adl - quddus

Inner margin: (in individual letters): alif, waw, mim, kaf, alif, nun, mim, ya, ta, alif, fa, alif, ya, ya, nun, alif, ha (undeciphered)

In centre: (unread)

Weight: 9.58g *Dimensions (max):* 52.8 x 47.0mm

References: cf *Arabic and Persian Seals and Amulets in the British Museum* A135, for an object with similar legends

Hairline split, and two or three old repairs, very fine overall and a rare and unusual piece

£2,000-4,000

Provenance: Stated to have been acquired by the vendor's mother when travelling in Cairo during the 1950s.



118

BUWAYHID, 'IZZ AL-DAWLA (356-367h)

Gold medallion of five dinars weight, Madinat al-Salam 363h

Obverse: La ilaha illa Allah wahdahu la sharik lahu duriba bi-Madinat al-Salam sanat thalath wa sittin wa thalath mi'at. Lion with long mane to left, biting the neck of a deer which lies beneath it.

Reverse: La ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah salla Allah 'alayhi wa salam al-Muti' lillah al-amir 'Izz al-dawla. Leopard to right, with spots represented by trefoils, attacking an ibex which lies beneath it.

Weight: 20.54g References: Ilisch 40 = Miles, 'A Portrait of the Buyid Prince Rukn al-Dawlah,' ANS MN XI (1964), p. 288, note 14 (this piece?)

A fine cast with the fields carefully burnished, good extremely fine and of the highest rarity

£180,000-220,000

Provenance: Purchased from Oliver Hoare Ltd during the 1980s (and see also below).

The photographs in the articles by both Ilisch and Miles are of plaster casts, apparently presented to the ANS by Dr John Walker of the British Museum in 1955. Walker did not have any provenance information for the piece, but Miles himself had already obtained pencil rubbings of a similar medallion which he suspected was the same as that seen by Walker. These rubbings had come from Edward Gans, who told Miles that he had obtained the medallion from the estate of a Zurich coin dealer Dr Hans Nussbaum, January 1939. With the rubbings given to Miles was a note, confirming the diameter and weight of the medallion as '38 mm, 20.5 grms' – exactly the same as the present piece.

When writing in 1964, Miles was unaware of the piece's whereabouts, but Gans stated that he had sold it in 1943 to Joseph Brummer, the celebrated art dealer and collector. Parts of Brummer's superb collection were sold at various times: a portion went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1947 (the year of Brummer's death), while 2,400 further lots from the Brummer Estate were sold by Parke Bernet Galleries in 1949, and a final group of 600 choice items was sold in Zurich in 1979 by Koller, in conjunction with Spink & Son of London. No such object can be traced among these major dispersals, although it is of course possible that other pieces from Brummer's collection and inventory were sold privately over the years. Thus while it seems likely, is not possible to say for certain that the piece offered here is the original from which Walker's casts were taken, and there are several minor flaws visible in the photographs of the casts which are not obvious on this medallion. Whether these flaws were indeed part of the object shown to Walker, or have been created or exaggerated in the casting process, is impossible to say – and it is frustrating that Walker himself appears to have kept no records of the piece's technical data or provenance.

The tradition of producing special coins and medallions for presentation purposes has its origins in the Greco-Roman world, and by the later Roman and Byzantine periods had become a well-established aspect of the coinage. Harun al-Rashid (170-193h) seems to have been the first Islamic ruler to issue special coins for presentation, and during the caliphate of al-Mutawakkil (232-247h) donative gold and silver coins began to be issued regularly.

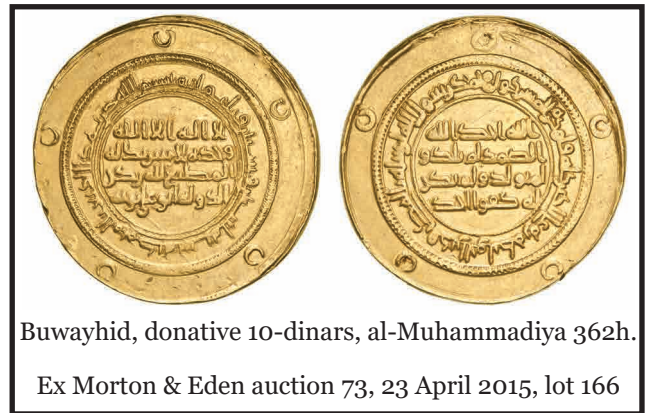
Early Islamic presentation coins were identical to regular currency issues in both legends and weight, but special care was taken over the calligraphy and the design itself was slightly modified so as to leave a wide, plain border around the legends themselves. Apart from making them stand out from regular coins, this also made it possible for them to be pierced or loop-mounted for wear without damage to the legends.

The variety of designs seen on Islamic donative coins expanded during the 3rd/9th and early 4/10th centuries. Al-Mutawakkil produced a remarkable silver coin of one mithqal weight with a facing portrait on the obverse and a camel on the reverse, while al-Mu'tazz (251-255h) issued gold and silver donative coins depicting animals and birds (see lot 25). The range of weights expanded also, from tiny gold and silver fractions weighing less than 1g to large, imposing double-dinars and five-dirham pieces. But most of the donative coins produced between the 230s and 330s were still versions of contemporary currency types, usually with a broad margin and, in the case of the fractions, sometimes with shorter legends to fit the smaller module of the coin. All surviving donatives produced during this period appear to have been *struck*, presumably at the same mint and using the same facilities which produced regular currency coins.

The Buwayhids were from Daylam, a mountainous region in Northern Iran on the shores of the Caspian Sea. The founders of the dynasty, Rukn al-dawla (whose full name was Abu 'Ali al-Hasan) and his brother 'Imad al-dawla (Abu'l-Hasan 'Ali), both entered the services of the Samanid general Makan b. Kaki, but later switched their allegiance to another local warlord, Mardawij b. Ziyar. After Mardawij was murdered in 323h, much of the territory formerly under his control fell to the Buwayhid brothers. They went on to consolidate and expand their position until Baghdad itself came under Buwayhid control in 334h. The caliph al-Mustakfi was deposed, and al-Muti' installed in his place with the Buwayhids established as the new caliph's 'protectors.' While the caliphs retained their religious authority, their secular power was now gone. Henceforth, Baghdad would remain under Buwayhid control for more than a century.

Much has been made of the Buwayhids' role in what has been termed the 'Iranian interlude': the period between the weakening of Arab ascendancy in Iran from the later 3rd/9th century and the coming of the Seljuqs in the mid 5th/11th. During these two centuries, several dynasties with Iranian origins began to revive aspects of pre-Islamic Iranian culture, and this also found expression in the Buwayhid coinage. Thus we find Persian names and titles, including the pre-Islamic *shahanshah*, 'King of Kings,' used increasingly frequently on dinars and dirhams struck in the Buwayhid lands.

This Iranian revival was also expressed in the donative coins they produced, which can be divided into two distinct classes. On the one hand, the Buwayhids continued to strike donative gold and silver *coins*, which follow the familiar pattern established under the Abbasids. Some of these were of exceptional size, including the magnificent 10-dinar coin issued at al-Muhammadiya in 362h (from our auction 73, 23 April 2015, lot 166), but like their Abbasid precursors they are almost all purely epigraphic, generally bear standard coinage legends, and are struck to weights which fit the currency denominations of the day. Even the huge gold coin of al-Muhammadiya 362h mentioned above was carefully made to weigh *exactly* ten dinars. On the other hand, the Buwayhids also began to produce *medallions*, which differed from these donative coins in many crucial respects. These medallions were *cast*, which made it possible for them to feature large pictorial designs rendered in high relief. The Buwayhids could strike large donative coins successfully as long as these were purely epigraphic; the legends were deeply and cleanly engraved on the die, much of whose surface was in fact plain, and the technology of the day was therefore able to give a clear impression on the flan. But striking a large, complex pictorial design requires far greater force applied consistently across the blank, and good results would have been difficult if not impossible to obtain. It is notable that the images on Abbasid pictorial donatives of the third century tend to bear relatively simple, stylized images. Sacrificing detail in this way probably made it easier to produce a coin with a clear, well-struck image, while also perhaps playing to the strengths of die-cutters accustomed to engraving linear coin legends. By casting these medallions rather than striking them, the Buwayhids completely avoided this problem – which bedevilled *all* large coins produced before the advent of machinery – making it possible to produce large, spectacular pictorial medallions such as the present piece.



Buwayhid, donative 10-dinars, al-Muhammadiya 362h.

Ex Morton & Eden auction 73, 23 April 2015, lot 166

These new cast medallions were also markedly different from struck donative coins in their design, legends and above all their imagery. The examples discussed by Miles and Ilisch all bear images which hark back to distinctively Iranian themes. Miles illustrates two pieces which bear facing portraits of Buwayhid rulers, all clearly Sasanian in their style and inspiration, and all accompanied by inscriptions in Pahlawi rather than Arabic. Both were made at Iranian mints. The present medallion is one of two such pieces produced 'Izz al-dawla at Baghdad itself; these bear legends in Arabic only, but again the imagery is from the Iranian canon. The motif of a lion or leopard attacking a stag or gazelle, as seen here, goes back to coins from the ancient Greek world, and is also encountered on Parthian and Sasanian silver. On a later medallion dated 365h, 'Izz al-dawla himself is shown in an attitude described by Miles as '*seated cross-legged, holding a cup and accompanied by two attendants (a familiar theme in Sasanian and Islamic art)*'.





119

DULAFID, AHMAD B. 'ABD AL-'AZIZ (265-280h)

Donative double-dirham with gilded border, Mah al-Basra 272h

Obverse: below field: *al-Nasir li-din Allah | al-Muwaffaq billah | Ahmad b. 'Abd al-'Aziz*

Reverse: below field: *Dhu'l-wizaratayn*

Weight: 5.25g Reference: cf Vardanyan 7 (a standard dirham of this mint and date)

Traces of mounting, otherwise very fine to good very fine and excessively rare

£1,400-1,800

'Abd al-'Aziz was still loyal to the Abbasid caliph when this handsome donative coin was produced and the legends accordingly acknowledge al-Muwaffaq with his title *al-Nasir li-din Allah*, which he received after suppressing the Zanj rebellion in 270h. For an Abbasid donative double-dirham struck at Surra man ra'a in 245h, also with gilding, see Sotheby's, 25 May 2000, lot 377 (where illustrated on front cover).



120

BATINITE RULERS OF ALAMUT, JALAL AL-DIN AL-HASAN B. MUHAMMAD (607-618h)

Dinar, Kursi al-Daylam (?), date not legible

Obverse: In field: *la ilaha illa A- | llah Muhammad ra- | [sul] Allah al-Na- | [sir li-din] Allah*

Reverse: In field: *[Allah | al-Sultan al-Mu'azzam] | Jalal al-dunya wa | 'l-din Abu'l-Fath | al-Hasan b. Muhammad*

Weight: 3.42g Reference: Hamdan/Vardanyan 24, same dies

Approximately one-quarter of the coin broken away, fine and excessively rare

£1,500-2,500

Full dinars of the Batinite Rulers of Alamut are exceedingly rare, far more so than their fractional gold coinage. This coin is struck from the same dies as the example published by Hamdan and Vardanyan (in Tübingen, coin FE4 E3), whose marginal legends are completely missing. Although damaged, enough of the mint/date formula is visible in the present coin to show that the mint-name is almost certainly *Kursi al-Daylam*, although none of the date can be seen.



121

GREAT MONGOLS, CHINGIZ KHAN (603-624h)

Dinar, Bukhara 623h

Obverse: In field: *la ilaha illa Allaha | Muhammad | rasul Allah*

Reverse: In field: *Jinkiz | Khan al-'adil a- | l-a'zam*

Weight: 4.18g *Reference:* cf SNAT XVa, 267

Very fine and unusually well struck for this crude issue, very rare

£3,000-5,000

The unit of the date on this issue is crudely engraved and might perhaps be a '6' rather than a '3', although this would mean that the coin was struck after Chingiz's death. The final 'tooth' appears to be lower than those preceding it, and '3' seems a more likely reading.



122

ILKHANID, HULAGU (653-663h)

Dinar, Baghdad 660h

Obverse: In field: *la ilaha illa Allah | wahdahu la sharik lahu | Muhammad rasul Allah | salla Allah 'alayhi | wa salam*

Reverse: In field: *Qa'an | al-'azam Munaka | Qa'an Hulaku | khan malik riqa- | b al-imam khalada | mulkuhuma*

Weight: 7.07g *Reference:* cf Diler 19 (this date not listed)

Edge damage at 10 o'clock on obverse and other minor edge marks, otherwise almost extremely fine and extremely rare

£1,000-1,500



123

ILKHANID, GHAZAN MAHMUD (694-703h)

Dinar, al-Maragha 698h

Weight: 8.34g *Reference:* Diler 282

Slightly creased, very fine or better and rare

£700-1,000



124
ILKHANID, ABU SA 'ID (716-736h)
Dinar, Madinat al-Sultaniya al-Ma'mura 717h
Weight: 8.05g Reference: Diler 478

Almost extremely fine and rare

£800-1,200



125
ILKHANID, ABU SA 'ID (716-736h)
Dinar, Madinat al-Salam Baghdad 717h
Weight: 5.66g Reference: Diler 478

Wavy flan and unevenly struck, very fine to good very fine and rare

£700-1,000



126
CHAGHATAYID, TEMP. TARMASHRIN (726-734h)
Bronze obverse die for anonymous silver dinars, type of Bukhara, c. 728-730h
In field: *al-'adl wa'l-mulk* | tamgha | *tu'aman* (see note)

Weight: 135g Diameter: 38mm Thickness: 14.8mm Reference: cf Album 1992 for coins produced from dies of this type

Very fine and extremely rare

£1,500-2,000

The legend *al-'adl wa'l-mulk* is blundered on this die, which supports the view that it may have been made to produce contemporary imitations. It may be noted, however, that officially produced Chaghatayid coins were also poorly made and sometimes exhibit spelling errors.



127

BUKHARA SOVIET PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

Seven copper hand-stamps, as used on banknotes from the 1920-1923 Rouble Issues

Cleaned in the recent past to remove verdigris, generally very fine and an interesting group

£500-1,000

On this series of locally-produced banknotes, a number of different stamps were applied manually to crudely-printed notes. The seven hand-stamps offered here include the denomination, and seem to have been used on higher-value issues.

END OF SALE

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(d) reject future bids from the Buyer;

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