



Volume 29

Journal of the Numismatic Association of Australia



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President's Report

Our eighth biennial international numismatic conference (NAAC2019) was held at the State Library of New South Wales. National Organiser Walter Bloom and the local Organising Committee of Ken Sheedy and Gil Davis put together an interesting program, the fruits of which can be seen in this current volume of the Journal. Highlights included keynote speakers, Ross MacDiarmid, RAM Director (*The future of collecting and the role of the Royal Australian Mint*) and Claire Rowson, Perth Mint (*Mint Condition: New directions for numismatic conservation in Australia*). We were pleased to see a strong New Zealand contingent in Sydney and for the first time in some years the conference ran at a (slight) profit.

I am delighted to advise the winning of the 2019 Paul Simon Memorial Award by Graeme Petterwood. Graeme has been very active on the Tasmania numismatic scene, even when the Tasmanian Numismatic Society had spent a significant time in hibernation. Over this crucial period he kept the Society on the numismatic map with his publishing of the bi-monthly newsletter *Tasmanian Numismatist*. Graeme's contribution to the Society has been recognised with the McDonald Encouragement Award, 1994; R V McNeice Literary Award 1995, 1996; Lockwood Medal 1998; Tasmanian Numismatic Society Bronze Medallion 1996, 2000, 2003; TNS President's Award 2000; TNS Distinguished Service Medal 2013; and TNS Life Membership 2014. Graeme also won the André Fecteau Prize (Association des Numismates Francophones du Canada; <http://anfc.info/>) literary award. Congratulations Graeme from the Australian numismatic community.

The NAA website has experienced some serious issues, well beyond my expertise as Website Manager. After many unsuccessful attempts at fixing the problems, both through the hosting company and the website developer, the Association is looking to pay an expert to get the website back on-line.

We continue to enjoy sponsorship at a sustainable level, with Noble Numismatics (Gold), Coinworks, Downies (Silver), Drake Sterling, Mowbray Collectables, Sterling & Currency and Vintage Coins & Banknotes (Bronze) all contributing to ensure the Association's continued success. However expenses are rising and receipts are falling, even with the steady level of membership. On the positive side, many continue to take out ten-year memberships which is certainly good for the short to medium term.

I am appreciative of the support of Council and other NAA members throughout the year, and particularly our Secretary, Jonathan Cohen, and Treasurer, Lyn Bloom, who are pivotal in the running of the Association, and our Managing Editor, Gil Davis, for his ongoing work with the journal. The Association is looking to hold its 2020 AGM in Perth with those members in the Eastern States invited to skype into the meeting. With 15 NAA members in WA including three Office Bearers, we should have no difficulty making a physical quorum.

Finally, I was sorry to miss this year in Sydney (due to illness), my first missed conference since their inception in 2005, and also my first missed AGM since I took up the Presidency in 2006.

Professor Walter R. Bloom

President, NAA

www.numismatics.org.au

Editor's Note

This journal is the showcase of the Numismatic Association of Australia (NAA), the peak body for numismatics in the country. It provides a venue for excellent scholarship with a requirement that all articles either offer new material or fresh interpretations. All submissions are required to undergo a rigorous, double-blind peer review. The 29th volume is the largest we have produced and comes as a result of a decision to combine 2018 and 2019 into one volume, with many of the articles generated from the biennial NAA conference held on 6-7 April 2019. Once again, there is a good balance of modern and ancient interests reflected in a remarkably diverse range of topics. It is pleasing to see the contributions made on New Zealand numismatics.

We have a strong international editorial board who contribute their wisdom, experience and help. I thank them and mourn the premature loss of one of our number, the late Professor Matthew Trundle whose obituary appears at the end of the volume. I thank Professor John Melville-Jones and Mr John O'Connor for their skill and application in proof-reading the articles and Mr Barrie Newman for his dedication in producing the volume. As always, I thank Professor Walter Bloom, President of the NAA, for his personal support and encouragement in dealing with the myriad of matters that editing a journal entails.

This volume has some changes from its predecessors. At the conference we ran a session in which a number of speakers gave a short presentation on a 'Numismatic Gem'. This was highly successful and amusing. Two of the presentations have been turned into brief articles including the winning entry by Darren Burgess on a 'humble' token from the English Civil War, and a charming story by Barrie Newman on his first coin, which led him to a lifelong interest in collecting. We have also included a review by David Rampling of the important book by Peter Lane on the South Australian 'Coin Cabinet'.

There are five articles on modern topics. The first two are about New Zealand with Andrew Clifford and Robert Tonner presenting a history of New Zealand banknotes, superbly illustrated from Robert's own collection, and David Galt following up with medals issued for the New Zealand Wars. Richard and Carmel S. O'Hair take us into the world of early Australian medals issued by a Geelong Highland society, while Darren Burgess provides a full listing and discussion of the Centenary of Sydney and Melbourne Commemorative medals. Yuri Rapoport suggests, perhaps controversially, that there is a fifth variety of the 1931 penny.

There are also five large articles on topics spanning a thousand years of ancient history. Lloyd Taylor provides an exemplary study of the Alexander tetradrachms that he attributes to the Phoenician port city of Karne. From there, we segue into the vexed question of the so-called Porus medallions of Alexander, explored in detail by Michael Habicht and his colleagues. Staying in the ancient East, Rachel Mansfield reattributes a previously incorrectly identified coin type minted in the Levantine port city of Jaffa under the Severan emperors. Bruce Marshall discusses the introduction of slogans to Roman republican denarii. Finally, Christian Cuello discusses the extent to which imperial authority was conveyed in the 'imitation' coinage of 'barbarian' rulers in late antiquity.

All the articles contain significant research providing the volume with enduring value. They are well written and informative. I hope you enjoy reading them.

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A new coin type from Severan Jaffa

Rachel Mansfield

Abstract

This paper describes a previously incorrectly identified sixth coin type minted in Jaffa under the Severans. Three examples of this type have been identified. They were first catalogued by Hill in 1914 and published separately by Kindler and Meshorer in 1985, and later discussed by Ecker in 2010, but their reverses were inappropriately categorised as showing the figure of Athena. It is suggested here that a new type of Ares is depicted rather than Athena.

Key Words

[Severan Period] [Severan coinage] [Roman Provincial Coinage] [Syria-Palestine] [Severus Alexander] [Elagabalus] [Jaffa] [Yafo] [Ares] [Athena] [Perseus]

Background

The city of Jaffa lies on the Mediterranean coast, near the border of the Plain of Sharon and just beyond the Shephelah (Judean foothills). The city was prominent for two reasons: it was an important port connecting the Southern Levant to the broader Mediterranean economy and also lay on the main highway (Via Maris or Derek Hayom) connecting Mesopotamia and Egypt.¹ The city was established on a raised strategic section of land which protrudes into the Mediterranean Sea allowing a 360-degree view of the surrounds and providing natural defences.² These factors enabled it to thrive from the Bronze Age to the present day, with a densely populated city (Tel Aviv-Yafo) currently covering most of the ancient site.³

Despite millennia of prolonged wealth, the city minted coins in only three periods; in the Ptolemaic period (under Ptolemy II and III), the Severan period (third century CE), and in the Crusader period.⁴ The Severan coins are under consideration here. They are present in various collections.⁵ The earliest identification of coinage from Jaffa was made by G.F. Hill.⁶ The coins have also been analysed by Ecker, Kindler and Meshorer.⁷

1 Tsuf 2018, p. 9.

2 Aronson 2007, p.59; Burke & Peilstöcker 2014; Tsuf 2018.

3 Arbel 2016, p.173; Burke & Peilstöcker 2014; Foran 2011.

4 Meshorer 1985, p. 24.

5 See Meshorer, Bijovsky & Fischer-Bossert 2013; Rosenberger 1975.

6 Hill 1914

7 Ecker 2010; Kindler 1985; Meshorer 1985.

The five previously known types of Severan coinage minted at Jaffa were identified by Arie Kindler⁸ and Ya'akov Meshorer⁹ and consisted of: 1. Perseus; 2. a Horseman; 3. Athena; 4. a Bull; and 5. Tyche in a Tetrastyle Temple. The coins were minted between the rule of Caracalla (198-217 CE) and Severus Alexander (222-235 CE). The obverse types also include imperial women such as Julia Domna, Julia Maesa and Julia Paula.

An additional coin type

The figure represented as a new and sixth type has previously been identified as Athena. There are presently three known examples.¹⁰ The following are the details from the original published descriptions:

1. Obv: Bust of Elagabalus, laureate and draped to the right.
Rev: Athena standing left, helmeted, long staff in left hand and shield in right.
- - 19mm, bronze, Semis.

Ira and Larry Goldberg Coins and Collectables auction 41 lot 2726 (27 May 2007),
Fig. 1.

2. Obv: Bust of Severus Alexander, draped and laureate to the right.
Rev: Athena standing left, helmeted, long staff in left hand and shield in right.
5.45g – (12), Semis.

Meshorer et al. 2013 Jaffa 22, Fig. 2.

3. Obv: Bust of Severus Alexander, draped and laureate to the right.
Rev: Athena standing left, helmeted, long staff in left hand and shield in right.
7.09g – (2), Semis.

Meshorer et al. 2013 Jaffa 23, Fig. 3.



Figure 1: Ira and Larry Goldberg
41 (27 May 2007), lot 2726



Figure 2: Meshorer et al. 2013
Jaffa, no. 22 ©ANS New York



Figure 3: Meshorer et al. 2013
Jaffa, 23 ©ANS New York

8 Kindler 1985.

9 Meshorer 1985.

10 With the kind help of Cecilia Meir and Donald Ariel (IAA) I was able to view the coins of Jaffa in two of the largest collections in Israel and this type was not found in either. Also, I wish to acknowledge that this trip was made possible by the award of an ACANS travelling scholarship.

In each of these examples, the reverse type was compared with the dies of coins issued by this mint that unequivocally depict Athena (Figs. 4-6). This coin type is found on at least 26 surviving coins of Jaffa; my studies have shown that at least six dies were employed. These dies all depict the standing figure of Athena, facing left, with a long staff in her right hand and resting a shield against the ground with her left hand.¹¹ This is roughly similar to the Figure on coins being discussed here. The body turns away from the side on which the spear is held. However, Athena wears a long *chiton*, whereas the figure on coins Figures 1-3 has two separated legs, indicating that he is male. We should therefore reject the proposal that Athena is depicted on coins with the reverse type under discussion.



Figure 4: CNG 415 (28 Feb 2018), lot 463 ©CNG



Figure 5: CNG 347 (25 March 2015), lot 43 ©CNG



Figure 6: Rosenberg 1975 *Joppa*, no. 9

Identification

An alternative identification could be Perseus, who had an important cult in Jaffa based on his mythological exploit saving Andromeda from sacrifice to a sea monster there. Historical sources mention rocks just outside the ancient harbour as the place where Andromeda was intended to be sacrificed.¹² The image of Perseus is clearly depicted on other coins from Jaffa in the Severan Period (see Figs 7 and 8). Could the figure on coins in Figures 1-3 be a poorly cut illustration of Perseus?

I have identified three dies with the Perseus type in use at the mint of Jaffa.¹³ There are crucial elements which were typically used to identify Perseus in ancient iconography. At Jaffa, Perseus is depicted striding forward, wearing the cap of invisibility lent to him by Hades on his head, the winged boots of Hermes on his feet, with a *harpe* (harpoon type weapon) in his hand, a knapsack slung across his chest and hanging behind his body and the decapitated head of Medusa always shown in his outstretched hand.¹⁴ These features are all missing from the type under investigation here, and therefore it is unlikely that the male figure is Perseus.

¹¹ Ecker 2010, p. 160.

¹² Hesiod, *Theogony* 270-294; Homer, *Illiad* 14.319-20; Pseudo-Scylax (4th Cent BCE); Ecker 2010, p. 154-155; Aronson 2007, p. 60; Notley 2011, p. 95.

¹³ The results of this die study will soon be published in my forthcoming PhD dissertation.

¹⁴ Ecker 2010, p.162; Kindler 1985, pp. 27-28.



Figure 7: Ecker 2010, no. 4



Figure 8: Meshorer et al. 2013
Jaffa, 16 ©ANS New York

A Hybrid type or fake?

Is it plausible that this male figure is a hybrid type, displaying features of both Athena and Perseus, and perhaps an error on the part of the ancient die engravers or a modern counterfeit? If this were the case, some iconographical features of both types would have still been present on the coins.¹⁵ Therefore, it is untenable that this was the work of inexperienced die cutters who made a mistake. Additionally, the reverse dies are struck with obverse dies which link them to other coins from Jaffa minted under the Severans, proving the dies are not fakes.¹⁶

The sixth Jaffa coin type

For these reasons, it seems probable that this coin should be identified as a new type from the Jaffa mint. A search for similar types in use at other mints in the Syria-Palestine Province, the Decapolis, and Provincia Arabia, was undertaken in the following sources: Bijovsky and Fischer-Bossert, 2013, *Coins of the Holy Land: The Abraham and Marian Sofaer Collection*, and Spijkerman, 1978, *The coins of the Decapolis and Provincia Arabia*.

From this survey it is apparent that the proposed new coin type more closely resembles that of Ares, the half-brother of Perseus. Spijkerman features a coin minted under Julia Maesa which has a reverse described as a “warrior, wearing helmet, cuirass and boots, standing to front, looking left. His right hand rests on a spear pointing downwards, and his left hand is holding uncertain object” (see Fig. 9).¹⁷ This is a near-exact description of the identified coin type from Jaffa, and visually, the coins appear very similar. The coin was minted under Julia Maesa and is thus contemporary with the Jaffa examples.

15 I thank Prof. C. Howgego for discussing this possibility with me and for general comments on my study of the three coins under review.

16 The die link analysis of the coins of Jaffa will also be available in my forthcoming dissertation.

17 Spijkerman 1978, pp.52–53 Abila no. 17



Figure 9: Spijkerman 1978 Abila, 17

Closer to the city of Jaffa, Caesarea Maritima minted a similar coin showing Ares (Fig. 10).¹⁸ The reverse of this coin depicts a helmeted Ares, wearing boots, standing and facing right, holding a shield and a spear (it is unclear as to whether the spear is upside down or not). The significant difference from this coin from Caesarea Maritima is that the figure wears a *paludamentum* (cape or cloak). This example was minted under Trajan Decius (249-251 CE) a decade or two after those minted at Jaffa, but it illustrates the existence of depictions of Ares in the area in a similar period.



Figure 10: Meshorer et al. 2013 Caesarea Maritima, no. 111 ©ANS New York

The city of Samaria-Sebaste, which was connected to Jaffa through trade routes, minted numerous coins of a similar Ares type, all under the Severan emperors (Figs 11-13). Examples were minted under Geta (209-212 CE), Elagabalus (218-222 CE) and Julia Maesa, and depict Ares as nude, standing right, leaning on a spear and holding a *parazonium* (long dagger), and having a small round shield at his feet.¹⁹ Interestingly, this city sided with Septimius Severus in his war against Pescennius Niger in 193-194 CE, resulting in its being awarded colonial status following this victory, indicating its importance in the area.²⁰

18 Meshorer, Bijovsky & Fischer-Bossert 2013, p.30, pl. 29 Caesarea Maritima no. 111.

19 Meshorer, Bijovsky & Fischer-Bossert 2013, p.65, pl. 63-64 Samaria-Sebaste nos. 25, 31, and 36.

20 Meshorer, Bijovsky & Fischer-Bossert 2013, p.63.



Figure 11: Meshorer et al. 2013
Samaria-Sebaste, no. 25 ©ANS
New York



Figure 12: Meshorer et al. 2013
Samaria-Sebaste, no. 31 ©ANS
New York



Figure 13: Meshorer et al. 2013
Samaria-Sebaste, no. 36 ©ANS
New York

The city of Aelia Capitolina (Jerusalem), for which Jaffa functioned as the port city, also minted types of Ares in the reign of Antonius Pius which are iconographically similar to those of Jaffa studied here, see Figs 14 and 15. The type depicts Ares, helmeted, standing facing the front, holding a spear (it is unclear as to whether it is upside down) and resting on a shield.²¹



Figure 14: Meshorer et al. 2013 *Aelia Capitolina*, no. 30 ©ANS New York



Figure 15: Meshorer et al. 2013 *Aelia Capitolina*, no. 31 ©ANS New York

Finally, the city of Alexandria in Egypt, connected to Jaffa by the sea route of the Via Maris, minted coins of Ares with beautiful surviving examples, such as that in Figure 16. Alexandria minted these coins under Severus Alexander with Ares wearing a helmet and *paludamentum*, holding a long spear which is clearly upside down (like in Figs 1-3) and with a shield behind him in the right field.



Figure 16: CNG 403 (9 August 2017) lot 450 © CNG

²¹ Meshorer, Bijovsky & Fischer-Bossert 2013, p.82, pl. 72 *Aelia Capitolina* nos. 30, and 31

Additionally, Alexandria produced a coin series under Trajan which depicts both Athena and Ares standing, facing each other (Fig. 17). The similarity of the identifying features is noteworthy, but the dress is different, and Ares' spear faces downwards in this example. Regardless, the type is a good representation of the iconographic differences between Ares and Athena and strongly indicates that the type discussed here (Figs 1-3) is a depiction of Ares.



Figure 17: Naville Numismatics 38 (11 March 2018) lot 374 © Naville Numismatics

Conclusion

Arie Kindler was the first to identify the various types of Jaffa, and his identification of five types is preserved in more recent scholarship. Upon close examination of the coins, however, it is clear that examples of a sixth type have been identified wrongly as Athena. Instead, it seems that the three coins depict the war god Ares, with similar iconographic links to coin types in other surrounding cities. This new type should formally be described as follows: Nude figure of Ares, standing with helmeted head facing to the left; in his left hand he holds a long, downward pointing spear and in his right a shield.

Author

Rachel Mansfield is a PhD candidate at Macquarie University. She is researching the coinage of coastal cities in the Southern Levant which were minted during the Severan Period (third century CE). Her thesis focusses upon eight coastal cities, including the city of Jaffa. Rachel's passion for numismatics began in her undergraduate studies, in which she wrote on the First and Second Jewish Revolt coinage in her honours thesis, before shifting her focus to Severan Period coinage in her Master's thesis, specifically on the coins minted at Antipatris and Nicopolis. Her ongoing work with ACANS has enabled Rachel to work between Australia and Israel, to meet with world renowned scholars and enrich her studies in a small, yet vibrant research institute.

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