

37. Early Islamic issues in Syria and North Africa.

The standard legends and iconography for the Standing Caliph coins struck in Bilad al-Sham are as follows (deviations and varieties are set out in the references and general notes):

Obverse: Full length figure standing facing holding the pommel of his sword which hangs, in its scabbard, to his left. Apparently hanging from his right elbow is an uncertain object conventionally called a girdle band, but probably a whip. This is normally shown as a long loop, or sometimes as three separate strands. Arabic legend around clockwise from 12 o'clock or one o'clock: *li-'abd allāh 'abd al-malik amīr al-mu'minīn* (for the servant of God 'Abd al-Malik, Commander of the Believers).

Reverse: Symbol on steps with mint name left or right. Arabic legend around clockwise from 12 o'clock or one o'clock: *lā ilāha illā allāh waḥdahū muḥammad rasūl allāh* (there is no God but God, he is alone, Muḥammad is his messenger).

Bilad al-Sham.

Jund Qinnasrin.

Halab.

37.1.*
G. 46.
4.28 gms. 270.
2040.14.



37.2.
G. 46.
3.67 gms. 270.
1579.11.



37.3.*
G. 46.
2.15 gms. 220.
2041.14.



Jund Qinnasrin – probably Halab.

37.4.*
G. 46.
2.77 gms. 180.
2043.14.



37.5.*
G. 46.
1.61 gms. 090.
2042.14.



Qinnasrin.

37.6.*
G. 45, var.
2.82 gms. 000.
2038.14.



37.7.*
G. 45.
1.73 gms. 090.
2027.14.



Sarmin.

37.8.
G. 49.
3.80 gms. 230.
2028.14.



37.9.*
G. 49.
2.97 gms. 030.
1514.10.



37.10.*
G. 49.
2.84 gms. 040.
1936.13.



Tanukh.

37.11.*
G. 47.
3.92 gms. 060.
2029.14.



37.12.
G. 47.
3.12 gms. 030.
2030.14.



Ma'arrat Mişrin.

37.13.*
G. 52.
3.62 gms. 000.
1947.13.



37.14.*
G. 52.
1.78 gms. 180.
2026.14.



Jund Hims.

Hims.

37.15.*
G. 54.
3.14 gms. 000.
1929.13.



37.16.
G. 54.
2.76 gms. 270.
2037.14.



Jund Dimashq.

Damascus.

37.17.*
Album 3540.2.
5.06 gms. 180.
1949.13.



37.18.*
G. 58.
3.46 gms. 180.
2039.14.



37.19.*
G. 58.
3.12 gms. 120.
1999.14.



37.20.
G. 58.
3.05 gms. 100.
84.7.¹



Amman.

37.21.*
G. 60.
3.55 gms. 000.
2021.14.



37.22.
G. 60.
3.42 gms. 050.
1948.13.



37.23.
G. 60.
2.60 gms. 190.
1471.10



Jund Filastīn (Reverse: **Ṣ**).

Yubna.

37.24.*
G. 63, type 4.
2.59 gms. 180.
1527.11.



Iliya.

37.25.*
G. 62.
2.49 gms. 160.
2075.15.



North Africa.

Tripoli or Qawrayan; 80 AH.

Hassan Ibn al-Nu'man al-Ghassani in the name of al-Nu'mān.

37.26.*

SICA 738-739.

3.26 gms. 300.

1444.09.²



REFERENCES AND GENERAL NOTES

Goodwin (G.): Goodwin, T., Arab-Byzantine Coinage, Studies in the Khalili Collection, London, 2004.

SICA: Album, S., and Goodwin, T., Sylloge of Islamic Coins in the Ashmolean, Volume 1, Arab-Sasanian and Arab-Byzantine Coins, Oxford, 2002.

Album: Album, S., A Checklist of Islamic Coins, Santa Rosa, 2011.

The following note deviates from the standard obverse and reverse legends given above.

37.1-2. Reverse: *bi-ḥalab* (in Halab) upwards to left, *wāfin* (full value) downwards to right, standard legend around ending *muḥammad rasūl*.

37.3. Reverse: *bi-ḥalab* upwards to left, *wāfin* downwards to right, standard legend around.

37.4. Reverse: *wāfin* upwards to left, uncertain blundered mint name partially visible downwards to right, standard legend around.

37.5. Reverse: probably *ḥalab* or *bi-ḥalab* upwards to left, *wāfin* downwards to right, standard legend around.

37.6. Reverse: *bi-qinnasrīn* upwards to left, *wāfin* downwards to right, standard legend around.

37.7. Reverse: similar but *wāfin* upwards to right and *bi-qinnasrīn* downwards to left (both legends only partially visible).

37.8. Obverse: legend *amīr allāh* (blundered) downwards to left, traces of legend probably downwards to right. Reverse: *sar* downwards to right and *mīn* (retrograde) downwards to left.

37.9. Obverse: standard legend *li-ʿabd allāh ʿabd al-malik amīr al-muʿminīn*. Reverse: standard legend around omits *rasūl a*.

37.10. Obverse: only traces of legend visible, probably *khalīfat allāh* (caliph of God) downwards to right. Reverse: as 37.8.

37.11-12. *bi-tanūkh* upwards to left, *wāfin* downwards to right. Struck from the same reverse dies.

37.13. Heavily blundered legends. Reverse: *maʿarrat* to left probably upwards and *misrīn* to right probably downwards.

37.14. Obverse: standard legend. Reverse: similar to 37.13.

37.15-16. Obverse: standard legend (retrograde on 37.16). Reverse: star to left and *bi-ḥims* to right.

37.17. Obverse: *for the servant of God, ʿAbd al-Malik, commander of the believers*. Reverse: *there is no god but God, he is alone, Muḥammad is his messenger*; downwards to right *dimashq*.

37.18. Obverse: probably *lā ilāha illā allāh waḥdahū muḥammad rasūl allāh* (in the name of God, there is no deity but God alone, Muhammad is the messenger of God), heavily blundered. Reverse: almost completely garbled.

37.19-20. Obverse: *lā ilāha illā allāh waḥdahū muḥammad rasūl allāh*, heavily blundered. Reverse: *dimashq* or *mashq* downwards to right.

37.21-23. Standard legends. Reverse: star to left; *ammān* to right downwards.

37.24. Obverse: downwards to left *muḥammad ra*; upwards to right *sūl allāh*.

Reverse: downwards to left *filasṭīn*; upwards to right *yubnā*.

37.25. Obverse: downwards to left *muḥammad ra*; upwards to right *sūl allāh*. Reverse: *Ḥ*; upwards to left *īliyā*; upwards to right *filasṭīn*.

37.26. Obverse: facing imperial bust wearing chlamys with fibula and trefoil crown, Arabic legend to left down *fī sanat* and to right down *thamānīn* (in the year 80).

Reverse: pole-on-steps surmounted by globe, retrograde Arabic legend clockwise from top *bism allah hādhā amara bihi al-nuʿmān*. The legend begins on the reverse and continues onto the obverse: *in the name of God, al-Nuʿmān ordered this*.

¹ Date and source of acquisition unknown.

² Goodwin, A. and Gyselen, R., The Irbid Hoard of Arab-Byzantine Coins, Ch. 1, cat. 65 (this coin). Royal Numismatic Society Special Publication, 2015.