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## ABBREVIATIONS

- AJC* Y. Meshorer. *Ancient Jewish Coinage*. Dix Hills, NY 1982
- AJN* *American Journal of Numismatics*
- BMC* e.g., *BMC Arab.*: G.F. Hill. *Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Arabia, Mesopotamia, and Persia*. London 1922
- BMCO* e.g., *BMCO 1*: S. Lane-Poole. *The Coins of the Eastern Khaleefehs in the British Museum. Catalogue of the Oriental Coins in the British Museum 1*. London 1875
- CH* *Coin Hoards*
- CHL* Y. Meshorer, G. Bijovsky and W. Fischer-Bossert. *Coins of the Holy Land: The Abraham and Marian Sofaer Collection at the American Numismatic Society and the Israel Museum*. Ed. by D. Hendin and A. Meadows. New York 2013
- CIL* *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*
- CNP* e.g., L. Kadman. *The Coins of Akko Ptolemais* (Corpus Nummorum Palaestinensium IV). Jerusalem 1961
- CRE* e.g., H. Mattingly. *The Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum I. Augustus to Vitellius*. London 1923
- DOC* e.g., P. Grierson. *Catalogue of the Byzantine Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection and in the Whittemore Collection 3. Leo III to Nicephorus III 717–1081*. Washington, D.C. 1973
- IEJ* *Israel Exploration Journal*
- IG* *Inscriptiones Graecae*
- IGCH* M. Thompson, O. Mørkholm and C.M. Kraay. *An Inventory of Greek Coin Hoards*. New York 1973
- INJ* *Israel Numismatic Journal*
- INR* *Israel Numismatic Research*
- LA* *Studium Biblicum Franciscanum Liber Annuus*
- LRBC* e.g., P.V. Hill and J.P.C. Kent. Part 1: The Bronze Coinage of the House of Constantine, A.D. 324–46. In *Late Roman Bronze Coinage (A.D. 324–498)*. London 1965. Pp. 4–40
- MIB* e.g., W. Hahn. *Von Anastasius I. bis Justinianus I (491–565)*. Moneta Imperii Byzantini 1. Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften Philosophisch-Historische Klasse Denkschriften 109. Veröffentlichungen der Numismatischen Kommission 1. Vienna 1973
- MIBE* W. Hahn. *Money of the Incipient Byzantine Empire (Anastasius I–Justinian I, 491–565)* (Veröffentlichungen des Instituts für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte der Universität Wien 6). Vienna 2000
- MIBEC* W. Hahn and M. Metlich. *Money of the Incipient Byzantine Empire Continued (Justin II—Revolt of the Heraclii, 565–610)*. (Veröffentlichungen des Instituts für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte der Universität Wien 13). Vienna 2009
- MN* *American Numismatic Society Museum Notes*
- NC* *Numismatic Chronicle*
- NCirc.* *Numismatic Circular*
- NNM* *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*
- RIC* e.g., C.H.V. Sutherland. *The Roman Imperial Coinage I. From 31 BC to AD 69*. London 1984
- RN* *Revue Numismatique*
- RPC* e.g., A. Burnett, M. Amandry and I. Carradice. *From Vespasian to Domitian (AD 69–96)*. *Roman Provincial Coinage 2*. London 1999
- RRC* M.H. Crawford. *Roman Republican Coinage*. Cambridge 1974
- SC* e.g., A. Houghton and C. Lorber. *Seleucid Coins. A Comprehensive Catalogue. Part I. Seleucus I through Antiochus III*. New York, Lancaster, PA-London 2002
- SICA* e.g., S. Album and T. Goodwin. *Sylloge of Islamic Coins in the Ashmolean 1: The Pre-Reform Coinage of the Early Islamic Period*. Oxford 2002
- SNAT* e.g., L. Ilisch. *Sylloge Numorum Arabicorum Tübingen–Palästina IVa Bilād aš-Šām I*. Tübingen 1993
- SNG* *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum* (with suffix as necessary, e.g. *SNG Cop.*)
- SNR* *Schweizerische Numismatische Rundschau*
- TINC* *Transactions of the International Numismatic Congress*
- TJC* Y. Meshorer. *A Treasury of Jewish Coins from the Persian Period to Bar Kochba*. Jerusalem-Nyack 2001
- ZfN* *Zeitschrift für Numismatik*

# The Coinage of the Islamic State

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## *Abstract*

The Islamic State announced in late 2014 that it would issue coins. Made of both precious metals (gold and silver) and base metal, they were to replace the “worthless” paper currencies of Syria and Iraq and the U.S. dollar. This article studies the Islamic background to this proposed new currency, the justification for the use of precious metals, and the designs of the new coins themselves and the messages that they are intended to propagate.

## INTRODUCTION

The Islamic State (IS) announced in mid-November 2014 that it would issue its own coins.<sup>1</sup> The new coins were to replace local currencies as well as the U.S. dollar in the territories controlled by IS.<sup>2</sup> The announcement was striking in several

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- 1 The announcement is archived at [https://ia802609.us.archive.org/21/items/bayan\\_201411/bayan.pdf](https://ia802609.us.archive.org/21/items/bayan_201411/bayan.pdf) (accessed on November 14, 2014). This website seems no longer (in January 2016) to be available. However, [www.isis-coins.com](http://www.isis-coins.com) has at least parts of the original announcement, in a variety of languages (English, Arabic, Russian, German, Spanish and French), together with pictures and offers to sell sets of the coins for U.S.\$950 (payment to be effected via Paypal). The *Daily Caller*, a conservative website based in Washington, published a story, “ISIS’ New Gold Coins Aren’t Even Real,” by Ivan Plis, on September 4, 2015, asserting that the ‘*dinars*’ available in Mosul are “metal coins that are merely plated with 21-carat gold” — it is not clear whether these ‘*dinars*’ are actually IS *dinars* bearing the design announced by IS or other, older coins with a gold covering, or simply empty flans with a gold sheen. (See <http://dailycaller.com/2015/09/04/isis-new-gold-coins-arent-even-real/> accessed January 7, 2016); the story is further sourced to Marwan Jabbar, “Gold at End of Extremist Rainbow: Islamic State release their own ‘fake’ currency,” published on September 3, 2015, at Niqash, a website based in Berlin in English, Arabic and Kurdish (see <http://www.niqash.org/en/articles/economy/5097/Islamic-State-Release-Their-Own-‘Fake’-Currency.htm>, accessed January 7, 2016). For news reports about the initial announcement see, e.g., <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-11-13/islamic-state-says-to-issue-coins-on-baghdadi-s-orders.html> ‘Islamic State Mints Coins as Jihadis Develop Trappings of Power’; <http://www.dw.de/islamic-state-to-mint-dinar-coins/a-18063560> (accessed on 14 November 2014). There are many others.
  - 2 See also Archive, Specimen 9C, of 13 Dhu al-Hijjah 1436 = September 27, 2015,



Fig. 1. Coinage of the Islamic State