

A Late Fourth-Century Purse Hoard from the Site of Humayma (Ancient Hauarra), Jordan

PLATES 14–15

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In 1995, archaeological excavation at the site of Humayma, in southern Jordan, uncovered a purse hoard of 28 late Roman bronze coins. Found on the edge of the settlement, adjacent to the *Via Nova Traiana*, the contents of this purse were likely lost at the end of the fourth century or in the early fifth century CE. The hoard and the coins that comprise it represent an important addition to the site's numismatic profile.

During the 1995 excavation season at the archaeological site of Humayma (Roman Hauarra, Nabataean Hawara), excavators uncovered an accumulation of 28 bronze coins predominately dating to the late fourth century CE. The small quantity and the low value of these coins suggest that they represent the contents of a purse accidentally lost at the end of the fourth century or in the early decades of the fifth century. Although excavated over 25 years ago, these coins have not been published in detail previously.¹

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1. The existence of this hoard, however, is mentioned in a published excavation report: M. B. Reeves et al., "Preliminary Report on Excavations in the Nabataean Town and Roman Vicus at Humayma (Ancient Hawara), 2008," *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 53 (2009), 241–42, 244. These coins are also discussed in two MA theses: I. Babbitt, "Second to Fourth Century Structures from Hawara's Vicus: Interim Report on Field E121 at Humayma,"

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF THE HOARD

The site of Humayma is located in southern Jordan, approximately 55 km northeast of Aqaba and 45 km south of Petra. Founded by the Nabataeans, the site became home to a Roman auxiliary fort immediately following the annexation of the Nabataean Kingdom in 106 CE. This fort appears to have been briefly abandoned in the late third century but was re-garrisoned between the early and late fourth century. During the late Roman period, when the region was reorganized as the province of *Palaestina Salutaris (Palaestina Tertia)*, the site was mentioned in both the *Notitia Dignitatum* and the Beer Sheva Edict.² The civilian settlement thrived throughout the Byzantine period and into the early Islamic period, when it was home to the 'Abbasid family, before their overthrow of the Umayyad Caliphate. Since 1986, this site has been the focus of archaeological investigation by the Humayma Excavation Project.³

The hoard presented here was uncovered during the excavation of Area E121, which is located northeast of the settlement's center and approximately 100 m west of the Roman fort (Fig. 1). Between Area E121 and the fort, the *Via Nova Trajana* (the region's primary north-south road) is thought to have entered the town from the north, beneath the modern road. Area E121 comprises two heavily robbed-out enigmatic stone structures and a raised square platform built of stone and mortar (Fig. 2). Although excavation was carried out in 1995, no published report of this area appeared until after renewed excavations in 2008.⁴

The functions of the structures in Area E121 are not entirely clear. The stone platform, which measures almost exactly 10 by 10 Roman feet (2.95 m), may have served as a tribunal for reviewing troops on parade, or it may have held a

(Queen's University, 2009), 39–40, 110–111, fig. 3-3; V. Doran, "The Sacred Nature of Signs: A Study of Christian Symbolism at the Site of Humayma, Jordan" (Queen's University, 2019), 73–76.

2. For discussion of its mention in the *Notitia Dignitatum* (*Or.* XXXIV.25) and the Beer Sheva Edict (fragment 2, line 2), see: J. P. Oleson, *Humayma Excavation Project, 1: Resources, History and the Water-Supply System* (Boston: The American Schools of Oriental Research, 2010), 54–5. Significantly, the site's mention in the *Notitia Dignitatum* is roughly contemporary with the deposition of the hoard presented here.

3. For an overview of this site's history and excavation, see: Oleson, *Humayma*, 1–62; J. P. Oleson and R. Schick, *Humayma Excavation Project, 2: Nabatean Campground and Necropolis, Byzantine Churches, and Early Islamic Domestic Structures* (Boston: The American Schools of Oriental Research, 2013), 1–5, 549–54; Oleson et al., *Humayma Excavation Project, 3: The Roman Fort* (Boston: The American Schools of Oriental Research), in preparation.

4. Reeves et al., "Preliminary," 241–46. This area was also the subject of a 2009 MA thesis by Ian Babbitt (Babbitt, "Structures").

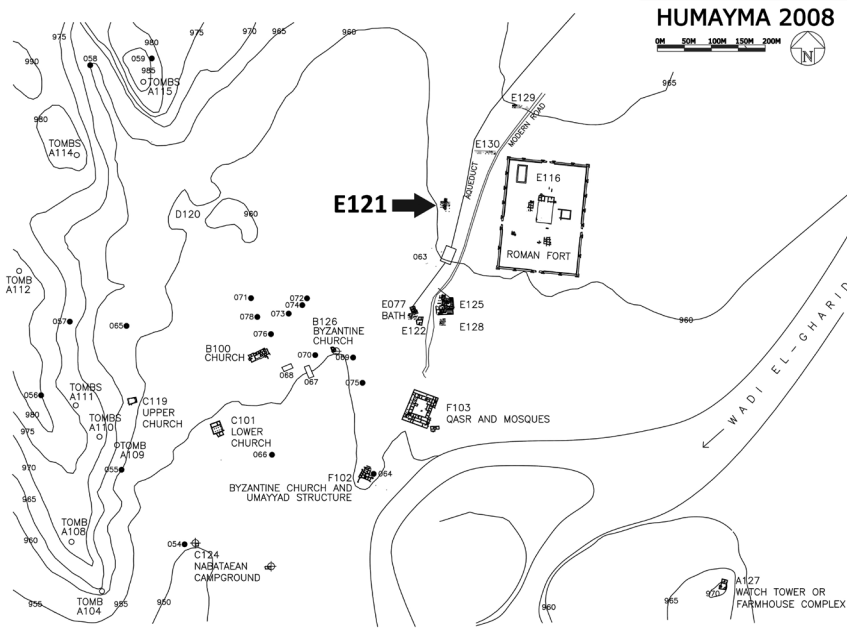


Figure 1. Site plan of Humayma, showing location of Area E121 (Courtesy of M. Barbara Reeves).

civic or religious monument, given its orientation towards a prominent mountain overlooking the site.⁵ Its top surface was later incorporated into Structure A's floor. Excavation of Structure A could not determine its function; however, having been constructed in the early fourth century and abandoned in the second half of the fourth century, the final phase of this building appears to have been contemporary with the last military occupation of the adjacent Roman fort.⁶ The construction of ring-like Structure B, which may have served as an animal pen, postdates the abandonment of Structure A.⁷

The coin hoard was found between the stone platform and the now robbed-out walls of Structure A's southern room (Fig. 2). Its discovery occurred between July 10 and 11, 1995, during the removal of the western half of the baulk between Squares 02 and 07. On July 10, excavators uncovered eight coins in the compact

5. Reeves et al., "Preliminary," 246; Babbitt, "Structures," 69–86; M. B. Reeves, "Humayma's notched peak: a focus of Nabataean and Roman veneration and civic identity," *Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy* 27.2 (2016), 172–73.

6. Reeves et al., "Preliminary," 243–44, 246; Babbitt, "Structures," 95–120.

7. Reeves et al., "Preliminary," 244–45; Babbitt, "Structures," 121–34.

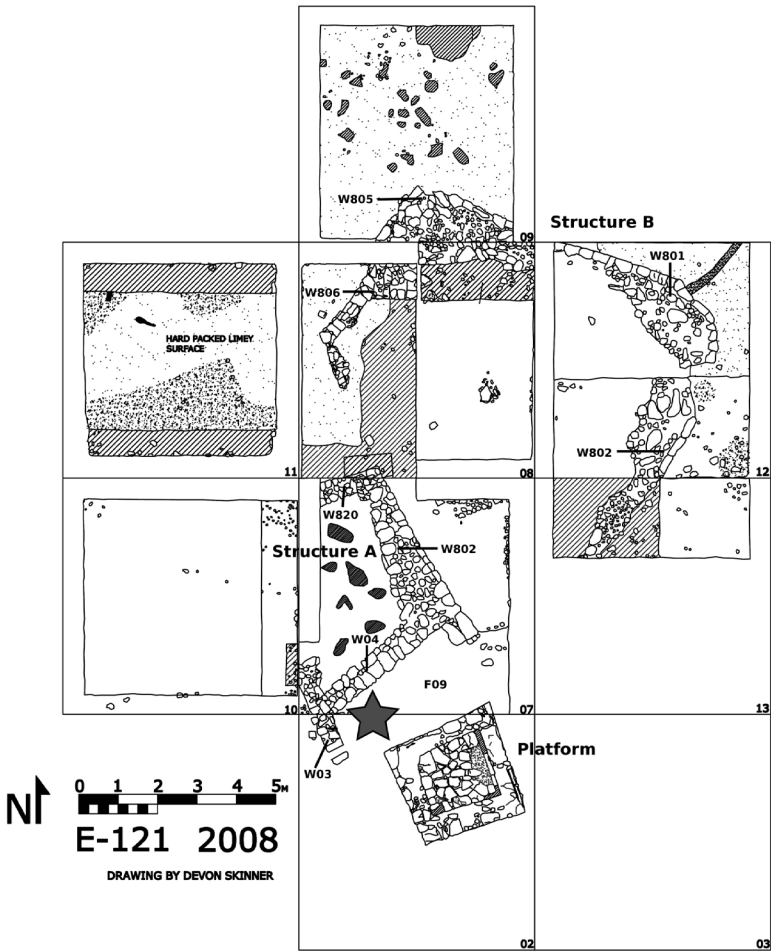


Figure 2. Plan of Area E121, showing findspot of the hoard, marked with a star (Courtesy of M. Barbara Reeves).

sandy soil of this baulk.⁸ Continued removal of the baulk on July 11, resulted in a further six coins being found in the sifter.⁹ Then, as described by the excavators, a partial baulk collapse resulted in twelve coins being found grouped together.¹⁰ Ten of these coins fell with the collapse, and two remained in place, suspended

8. Bucket 1995.0391; Cat. nos. 1, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 21.

9. Bucket 1995.0421; Cat. nos. 3, 8, 22, 23, 24, 25.

10. Bucket 1995.0422; Cat. nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, 19, 20, 26, 27.

in compacted sand, approximately 20 cm above a beaten earth floor (Floor 9). According to the excavators, there was no sign of a container, but they described these twelve coins as being “carefully stacked so [there] was probably something holding them together originally.”¹¹ Shortly afterward, an additional coin was found in the baulk, which the excavators associated with the hoard.¹² The excavation report also notes the presence of some small rocks located around the concentrated coins, but otherwise the soil of the baulk consisted of loose and compacted sand. Although the excavators recovered ceramic sherds and glass fragments from the baulk collapse, none of those finds were diagnostic.

During final sweeping for photography, on July 13, a further coin was found in the area of the baulk.¹³ This coin is heavily corroded and is completely illegible. Although its size and weight suggest that it probably belongs to the hoard, the severity of its corrosion compared to the other coins and the context of its discovery throws doubt on this possibility. Despite this uncertainty, it is included in the catalogue below.¹⁴

CATALOGUE OF COINS

House of Constantine

1. Uncertain mint; 335–340;¹⁵ 11:00; 14 mm; 1.32 g.¹⁶
Obverse: ...] AVG; laurel- and rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: [GLOR-]A EXE[RC]-ITVS; two soldiers holding spears in their outer hands resting their inner hands on shields with a single military standard between them; in exergue: ...]S.
 (1995.0391.01)

11. As recorded on the daily sheet for E121.07, on July 11, 1995.

12. Bucket 1995.0423; Cat. no. 9.

13. Bucket 1995.0458; Cat. no. 28.

14. During the 1995 season, excavation elsewhere in Area E121 uncovered a further four bronze coins (1995.0083.01, 1995.0084.01, 1995.0233.01, and 1995.0387.01). All four of these coins are heavily corroded or broken and are completely illegible. Although these coins likely do not belong to the hoard, their fabrics and diameters suggest they may date to the late Roman period.

15. All dates provided are those listed in *Roman Imperial Coinage*.

16. The recorded weights are those of the coins after they were cleaned.

Constans

2. Rome; 347–348; 11:00; 15 mm; 1.51 g.
Obverse: [C]ONSTAN-S P F AVG; laurel and rosette-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: VICTORIAE DD AV[G]GQ N[N]; two Victories standing facing one another, each holding wreath and palm; in exergue: R⊙P.
 (1995.0422.01)
 RIC VIII (Rome), p. 253, no. 84

Constantius II or Julian II as Caesar

3. Uncertain eastern mint; 355–361; 11:00; 15 mm; 1.73 g.
Obverse: Ruler's head right.
Reverse: FEL TEM[P REP]ARATI[O]; soldier killing fallen horseman; M in left field.
 (1995.0421.04)

Valens

4. Antioch; 364–367; 11:00; 14 mm; 2.41 g.
Obverse: DN VALE[NS] PF AVG; pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: [SEC]VRITAS REIPVB[LICAE]; Victory advancing left, holding wreath and palm; in exergue: ANTB.
 (1995.0422.04)
 RIC IX (Antioch), p. 275, no. 12(b)

Valentinian I, Valens, or Gratian

5. Rome; 364–375; 6:00; 15 mm; 1.77 g.
Obverse: Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: [SE]CVRITAS [REIPVBLICAE]; Victory advancing left, holding wreath and palm branch; in exergue: R·PR[IMA].
 (1995.0422.06)
 RIC IX, (Rome), pp. 120–21, no. 17 or 24

Gratian, Theodosius I, Arcadius, or Valentinian II

6. Uncertain mint; 378–388; 5:00; 11 mm; 1.15 g.
Obverse: Pearl-diademed head right.
Reverse: [V]OT/X/MVLT/XX within wreath.
 (1995.0422.12)

Valentinian II

7. Alexandria; 383–388; 12:00; 12 mm; 1.29 g.
Obverse: DN VA[LENTINIANVS PF AVG]; pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right; with T behind bust.
Reverse: VOT[X/MVLT/XX within wreath.
 (1995.0391.08)
 RIC IX (Alexandria), p. 302, no. 19(a)

Theodosius I

8. Nicomedia, Antioch, or Alexandria; 388–395; 10:00; 13 mm; 1.28 g.
Obverse: [DN THEODO]-SIVS [PF AVG]; pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: SALVS RE[I-PVBLICAE]; Victory advancing left with right hand carrying trophy over shoulder and left hand dragging captive; cross in left field.
 (1995.0421.03)
9. Uncertain mint; 388–395; 5:00; 12 mm; 1.39 g.
Obverse: DN THEODO-[SIVS PF AVG]; pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: SALVS REI-[PVBLICAE]; Victory advancing left with right hand carrying trophy over shoulder and left hand dragging captive; † in left field.
 (1995.0423.01)
10. Uncertain mint; 388–395; 6:00; 12 mm; 0.93 g.
Obverse: [DN T]HEOD[O-SIVS PF AVG]; pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: SALV[S REI-PVBLICAE]; Victory advancing left with right hand carrying trophy over shoulder and left hand dragging captive; † in left field.
 (1995.0422.02)
11. Uncertain mint; 388–395; 10:00; 11 mm; 0.95 g.
Obverse: DN THEODO-[SIVS PF AVG]; pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: [SALVS REI]-PVBLICAE; Victory advancing left with right hand carrying trophy over shoulder and left hand dragging captive.
 (1995.0391.07)

Arcadius

12. Constantinople; 388–392; 1:00; 13 mm; 1.39 g.
Obverse: DN ARCADIVS PF AVG; pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: SALVS REI-PVBLICAE; Victory advancing left with right hand carrying trophy over shoulder and left hand dragging captive; † in left field; in exergue: CON[S.].
 (1995.0422.05)
RIC IX (Constantinople), p. 234, no. 86(c)
13. Uncertain mint; 388–403; 12:00; 13 mm; 1.04 g.
Obverse: DN ARCA[DIVS PF AVG]; pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: [SALVS REI-PVBLICAE]; Victory advancing left with right hand carrying trophy over shoulder and left hand dragging captive.
 (1995.0391.06)
14. Uncertain mint; 388–403; 5:00; 13 mm; 1.30 g.
Obverse: [D]N ARCADIVS PF A[VG]; pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: SALVS REI-[PVBLICAE]; Victory advancing left with right hand carrying trophy over shoulder and left hand dragging captive; † in left field.
 (1995.0422.07)¹⁷

Arcadius or Honorius

15. Antioch; 388–395;¹⁸ 11:00; 13 mm; 1.19 g.
Obverse: ...]PF AVG; ruler's head right.
Reverse: SALVS REI-[PVBLICAE]; Victory advancing left with right hand carrying trophy over shoulder and left hand dragging captive; † in left field; in exergue: AN[T.].
 (1995.0391.02)

17. This coin was reported missing from the Aqaba Museum on Nov. 25, 2014. I was thus not able to study or photograph this coin, but rather relied upon the preliminary documentation of the coin by the excavators.

18. Pearce assigns this coin to the sixth period of the Antiochene mint, for which he gives the date range “25 Aug. A.D. 383–15 May A.D. 392” (*RIC IX*, 292). This starting date, however, appears to be a typo, as the starting date for the sixth period of all other mints is given as “28 Aug. A.D. 388” (*RIC IX*, 30, 50, 69, 80, 106, 132, 187, 198, 234, 246, 261, 303). Furthermore, Pearce explicitly states that the SALVS REIPVBLICAE type was minted at Antioch following defeat of Maximus, which took place in 388 CE (*RIC IX*, 268). Based on this reading of the text, a starting date of 388 CE is given to this coin.

RIC IX (Antioch), pp. 292–93, 295, no. 67 or 70

Theodosius, Valentinian II, Arcadius, or Honorius

16. Nicomedia, Antioch, or Alexandria; 388–395; 2:00; 11 mm; 1.57 g.
Obverse: Ruler's head right.
Reverse: [SALVS REI]-PVB[LICAE]; Victory advancing left with right hand carrying trophy over shoulder and left hand dragging captive; cross in left field.
 (1995.0422.03)

Uncertain fourth- or fifth-century emperor

17. Uncertain mint; 388–455; 12:00; 11 mm; 1.18 g.
Obverse: Ruler's head right.
Reverse: [SALVS] REI-[PVBLICAE]; Victory advancing left with right hand carrying trophy over shoulder and left hand dragging captive; † in left field.
 (1995.0391.05)
18. Uncertain mint; 388–455; 11:00; 10 mm; 0.65 g.
Obverse: Ruler's head right.
Reverse: [SALVS REI-PVBLICAE] Victory advancing left with right hand carrying trophy over shoulder and left hand dragging captive; possible † in left field.
 (1995.0391.03)
19. Uncertain mint; late-fourth to fifth century; 6:00; 13 mm; 1.25 g.
Obverse: Ruler's head right.
Reverse: Victory striding left, holding wreath.
 (1995.0422.09)
20. Uncertain mint; possible mid- to late-fourth century imitation;¹⁹ ?; 12 mm; 1.23 g.
Obverse: Pearl diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: Illegible.
 (1995.0422.10)
21. Uncertain mint; ?; 14 mm; 1.69 g; hole punched in center.
Obverse: Ruler's head right.
Reverse: Illegible.
 (1995.0391.04)

19. Identification as an imitation was based on style and fabric, with assistance from Dr. Nathan Elkins.

22. Uncertain mint; 2:00?; 16 mm; 2.28 g.
Obverse: Pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.
Reverse: Illegible; possible small figure kneeling on left before larger figure.
(1995.0421.01)
23. Uncertain mint; ?; 14 mm; 1.70 g.
Obverse: Illegible.
Reverse: Illegible.
(1995.0421.02)
24. Uncertain mint; ?; 13 mm; 0.56 g.
Obverse: Ruler's head right.
Reverse: Illegible.
(1995.0421.05)
25. Uncertain mint; ?; 12 mm; 1.05 g.
Obverse: Illegible.
Reverse: Illegible.
(1995.0421.06)
26. Uncertain mint; ?; 13 mm; 1.71 g.
Obverse: Illegible.
Reverse: Illegible.
(1995.0422.08)
27. Uncertain mint; ?; 12 mm; 1.42 g.
Obverse: Illegible.
Reverse: Illegible.
(1995.0422.11)
28. Uncertain mint; ?; 13 mm; 0.55 g.
Obverse: Illegible.
Reverse: Illegible.
(1995.0458.01)

DISCUSSION OF THE HOARD

The concentration of these coins, and particularly the discovery of several of them in a stack, strongly suggests that their deposition occurred at the same time. Furthermore, as the excavators rightly speculated, these "stacked" coins reveal that they were likely deposited in a container of perishable material such

as leather or textile. None of the coins exhibit textile pseudomorphs; however, these may have been removed during cleaning.²⁰

Of the 28 coins that comprise this hoard, 18 have identifiable reverse types. The earliest datable coin is a GLORIA EXERCITVS type of either Constantine I or one of his sons as Augustus, dating to between 335–340 CE (Cat. no. 1). The latest datable coins from the hoard are the 11 SALVS REIPVBLICAE types, seven of which date to between 388–395 CE (Cat. nos. 8–12, 15, 16), while two minted by Arcadius may date as late as 403 CE (Cat. nos. 13 and 14).²¹ The preponderance of these 11 SALVS REIPVBLICAE types is certainly notable, but it is not surprising given their prevalence in other hoards and in site finds from excavations in the wider region.²² One of the coins (Cat. no. 20) appears to be an imitation dating to the mid- to late fourth century CE.²³ The contents of this hoard, therefore, suggest that it was probably deposited at the very end of the fourth century CE or in the first few decades of the fifth century CE.²⁴ Although no diagnostic ceramics were found in association with these coins, the ceramic evidence elsewhere in Area E121 supports this date of deposition.²⁵

Only six coins from the hoard have identifiable mintmarks, with two coming

20. The Humayma coins were chemically cleaned with nitric acid before being stabilized. An account of the cleaning method used on the coins can be found in: Oleson et al., “Preliminary Report of the al-Ḥumayma Excavation Project, 1995, 1996, 1998,” *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 43 (1999), 445.

21. The remaining two coins of the SALVS REIPVBLICAE type from this hoard have obverses that are completely illegible (Cat. nos. 17 and 18). Although this reverse type continued to be used until the mid-fifth century, these coins are likely contemporary with the earlier coins.

22. See, for example, J. A. Seeger, “A Hoard of Late Roman Bronze Coins,” in *Coin Hoards II*, ed. M. Price (London: Royal Numismatic Society, 1976), 55–60; H. D. Kind et al., “Coins from Faynan, Jordan,” *Levant* 37.1 (2005), 177–78; J. D. Evans, *The Coins and the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine Economy of Palestine* (Boston: American Schools of Oriental Research, 2006), 156–67; G. Bijovsky, “Coins from Khirbet Fa’ush, Maccabim,” in *Christians and Christianity*, Vol III. *Churches and Monasteries in Samaria and Northern Judea*, ed. N. Carmin (Jerusalem: Israel Antiquities Authority, 2012), 346.

23. I am grateful to Dr. Nathan Elkins for helping to identify this coin as an imitation.

24. There is increasing evidence that bronze coins minted in the fourth century continued to be circulated into the fifth and even sixth century (G. Bijovsky, “The Currency of the Fifth Century C.E. in Palestine—Some Reflections in Light of the Numismatic Evidence,” *INJ* 14 [2000], 205–208; G. Bijovsky, *Gold Coin and Small Change: Monetary Circulation in Fifth-Seventh Century Byzantine Palestine* [Trieste: EUT Edizioni Università di Trieste, 2012], 75–99; J. D. Evans, “Five Small Bronze Hoards from Sardis and Their Implications for Coin Circulation in the Fifth Century C.E.,” *BASOR* 369 [May 2013], 139). It is, therefore, possible that this hoard was deposited later than its latest dated coin would suggest. This possibility, however, is not supported by the ceramic evidence from the structure.

25. Reeves et al., “Preliminary,” 241–44.

from Rome (Cat. nos. 2 and 5), two from Antioch (Cat. nos. 4 and 15), and one each from Constantinople (Cat. no. 12) and Alexandria (Cat. no. 7). A further three coins are from uncertain eastern mints (Cat. nos. 3, 8, and 16). The prevalence of eastern mints is not surprising, and this pattern is seen in the wider numismatic corpus at Humayma.²⁶

The small size of this hoard and the low value of the coins suggest that its loss was accidental. Such hoards, commonly known as purse hoards or accidental loss hoards, typically comprise small amounts of coins in circulation at the time of their loss and are often characterized by their deposition in purses of organic material that do not survive in the archaeological record.²⁷ Similar low-value purse hoards have been found in the wider region and elsewhere in the Roman East.²⁸

The deposition of the hoard at the end of the fourth or in the early fifth century, took place after the structures of Area E121 fell out of use, as evidenced by the roughly 20 cm of soil that accumulated on Structure A's floor surface before the loss of the hoard. The fact that this structure was robbed out in antiquity complicates a full understanding of its history; however, excavation elsewhere in Humayma's northeastern sector has revealed several instances of damage attributed to the 363 CE earthquake as well as a subsequent period of abandonment.²⁹ Damage to the site's aqueduct around this time may also have contributed to this abandonment and may have subsequently resulted in the concentration of settlement around the rain-fed cisterns in the site's southwestern sector from the

26. J. P. Oleson et al., "Coins, Metal, Bone, Ivory, Shell, Plaster, and Terracotta Objects," in Oleson and Schick, *Humayma* 2, 421; J. P. Oleson "Coins," in Oleson et al., *Humayma* 3.

27. Evans, "Five," 137.

28. For example, see: O. Hoover, "Three Late Roman 'Purse' Hoards from Aphrodisias," *NC* 160 (2000), 292–97; N. T. Elkins, "A Mid-Fourth Century Purse Hoard from the Roman Auxiliary Fort at Yotvata," *INR* 6 (2011): 139–46; Evans, "Five," 137–56.

29. For discussion and evidence of damage attributed to the 363 CE earthquake at Humayma, see: Oleson, *Humayma* 1, 59, 386; J. P. Oleson, "The Trajanic Auxiliary Fort at Hawara (Modern Humayma), Jordan," *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan* 13 (2019), 396, 401; Oleson et al., *Humayma* 3; M. B. Reeves, "A Nabataean and Roman Shrine with Civic and Military Gods at Humayma, Jordan," *Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy* 30.1 (2019), 137, 151; M. B. Reeves et al., "Report on the Humayma Excavation Project's 2010 and 2012 Field Seasons," *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 58 (2017), 132. For a broader discussion of the 363 CE earthquake, see: K. W. Russell, "The Earthquake of May 19, AD 363," *BASOR* 238.1 (1980), 47–64; K. W. Russell, "The Earthquake Chronology of Palestine and Northwest Arabia from the 2nd through the mid-8th Century AD," *BASOR* 260.1 (1985), 42; W. D. Ward, "The 363 Earthquake and the End of Public Paganism in the Southern Transjordan," *Journal of Late Antiquity* 9.1 (2016), 132–70.

late fourth to seventh century.³⁰ Despite this abandonment, the loss of the purse hoard among the structures of Area E121 suggests that this part of town was not entirely devoid of activity.

While the hoard may reflect temporary occupation of the abandoned buildings or their use as a quarry for building materials, it may also attest to the continued importance of the *Via Nova Traiana* as the principal north-south trade route in the province of *Palaestina Salutaris (Palaestina Tertia)*. This road entered the settlement from the north and likely passed Area E121 just to the east. It is possible that a local resident or traveler on this road briefly stopped at the recently abandoned structures and lost the purse, the low value of which did not warrant much effort to recover it.

This coin hoard is not the only one to have been found at Humayma. In 1991, excavation team members made a chance discovery of a coin and jewelry hoard containing five imitation gold *solidi* of Arcadius, 18 Sassanian silver drachms of Yazdegerd I, and a pair of gold earrings.³¹ This hoard, which is roughly contemporary with the one presented here, was found approximately 4 km west of the settlement center.

Site finds from within Humayma's settlement and fort include coins ranging from the Nabataean to modern period, with the majority dating to the fourth century, a pattern seen at other sites in the region.³² For example, almost half of the legible coins found during the excavation of Humayma's necropolis and Byzantine churches date to the fourth century, with almost all of them attributed to the House of Constantine.³³ Similarly, half of the coins recovered from the site's

30. M. B. Reeves, "The Nabataean and Roman Towns at al-Ḥumayma: an Urban Design Perspective," *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan* 13 (2019), 120–21.

31. E. de Bruijn and D. Dudley, "A Hoard of Byzantine Coins and Jewelry from Humeima: Preliminary Report and Catalogue," *Yarmouk Numismatics* 5 (1993), 23–29; E. de Bruijn and D. Dudley, "The Humeima Hoard: Byzantine and Sasanian Coins and Jewelry from Southern Jordan," *AJA* 99.4 (October 1995): 683–97; J. P. Oleson et al., "The Ḥumeima Excavation Project: Preliminary Report of the 1991–1992 Seasons," *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 37 (1993), 488; Oleson et al., "Coins, Metal, Bone, Ivory," 403–419.

32. For example, at Petra, see: C. Augé, "Coin Circulation in Early Petra: A Summary." In *Men on the Rocks. The Formation of Nabataean Petra*, ed. S. G. Schmid and M. Mouton (Berlin: Logos Verlag, 2013), 129; at Faynan, see: H. D. Kind et al., "Coins from Faynan, Jordan," *Levant* 37.1 (2005), 180–83; and at Aila and Lejjun, see: J. W. Betlyon, "Following the Roman Paymaster," in *The Socio-economic History and Material Culture of the Roman and Byzantine Near East. Essays in Honor of S. Thomas Parker*, ed. W. D. Ward (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2017), 228.

33. Oleson et al., "Coins, Metal, Bone, Ivory," 419–20.

fort were minted in the fourth century.³⁴ The abrupt termination of the fort's numismatic assemblage at the end of the House of Constantine supports the hypothesis that the garrison abandoned the fort around the time of the 363 CE earthquake.³⁵ As the coins of this hoard largely date to the late fourth century, they therefore fill a notable gap in the numismatic assemblage of Humayma.

CONCLUSION

In addition to filling a lacuna in Humayma's numismatic profile, this hoard (and the 28 coins that comprise it) represents an important addition to the numismatic corpus of southern Jordan, where few coin hoards have been documented. Accidentally lost at the end of the fourth century or in the early decades of the fifth century, the collection of small denominations is a good representation of the coinage that was in circulation at this time. Together with the gold and silver coins of the hoard previously found at Humayma, these coins provide evidence for the continued prosperity of the civilian settlement in the decades following the garrison's abandonment of the fort. They also likely reflect the continued importance of the *Via Nova Traiana* during this period for regional trade.

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34. Oleson, "Coins."

35. See note 29. Similar patterns of coin finds are seen at other Roman forts in the region that are thought to have been affected by the 363 CE earthquake. See, N. T. Elkins, "The Coins," in *The 2003–2007 Excavations in the Late Roman Fort at Yotvata*, by G. Davies and J. Magness (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2015), 176–77.

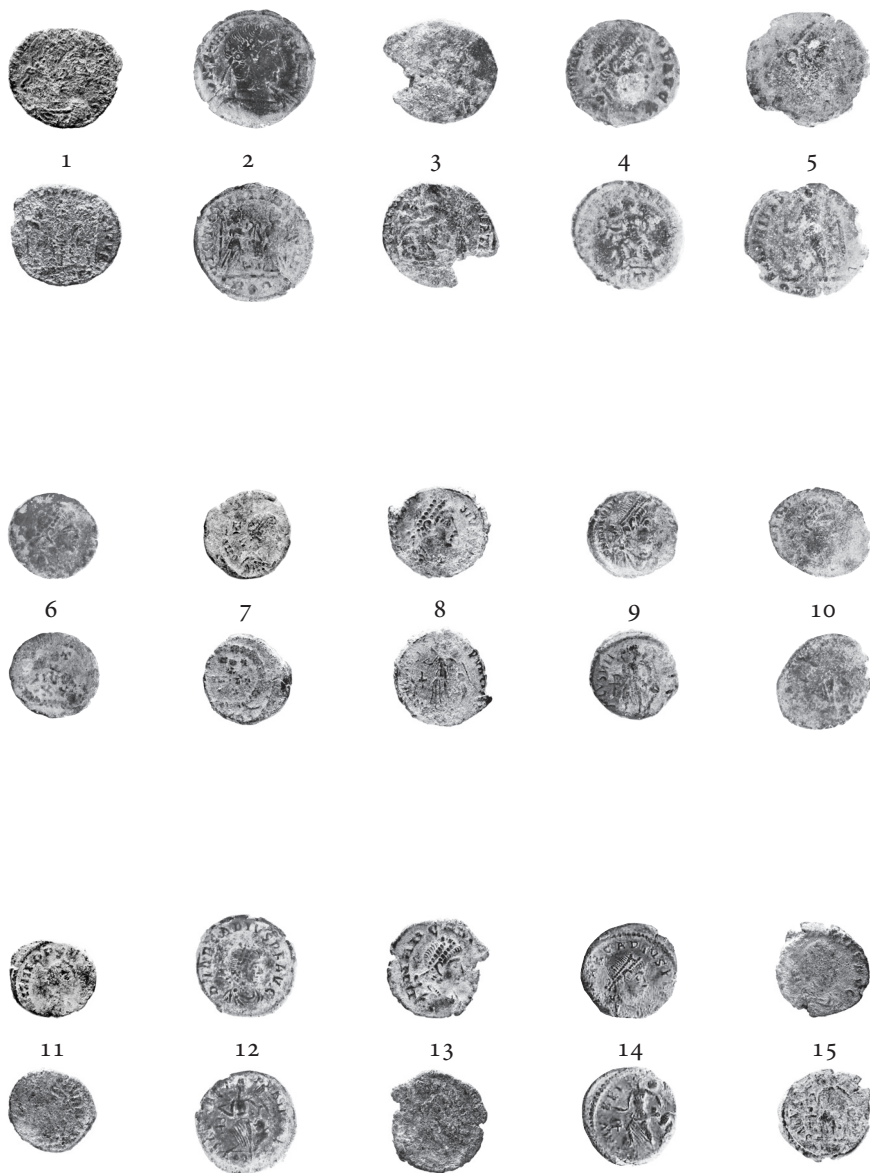
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Plate 14



A Late Fourth-Century Purse Hoard from the Site of Humayma



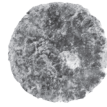
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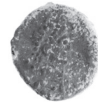
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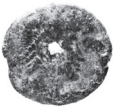
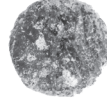
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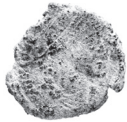
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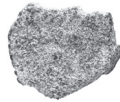
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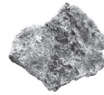
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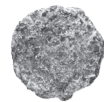
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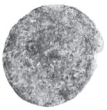
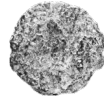
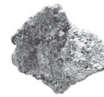
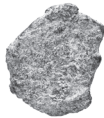
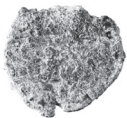
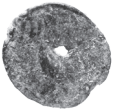
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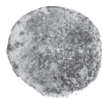
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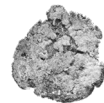
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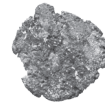
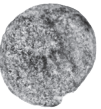
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