

**Zeitschrift:** Schweizer Münzblätter = Gazette numismatique suisse = Gazzetta numismatica svizzera  
**Herausgeber:** Schweizerische Numismatische Gesellschaft  
**Band:** 50-52 (2000-2002)  
**Heft:** 198  
  
**Artikel:** Gaza or Yehud  
**Autor:** Spaer, Arnold  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-171784>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 04.08.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

E.T. Newell in 1938 published an obol which he described as having on the obverse a «Head of Athena to right wearing ear-ring and crested Attic helmet adorned with floral design and olive leaves», and, on the reverse, «Owl to right. On left, olive spray. On right, traces of Aramaic (?) inscription. In field to r. of owl, *lotus bud*» on the rev.<sup>1</sup> He identified it as a «Palestinian imitation of Athenian coins» and dated it to the early 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.

This coin was republished by Meshorer<sup>2</sup> who, however, changed the description of the flower at the feet of the owl from «a lotus bud» to a «lily blossom» but retained the attribution as a Palestinian issue.

A second specimen of this type recently appeared for sale,<sup>3</sup> described as an issue of Gaza and following Meshorer, identified the plant on the reverse as a lily.

A third specimen of this type was recently acquired in Jerusalem (*fig.*); it weighs 0.69 g and has a die axis of 6.00. There are no traces of an Aramaic inscription; but as the right side of the reverse flan is quite narrow, an inscription may have been on the die but is off the flan.

It is proposed here that these coins should be reassigned from a «Palestinian mint» or «Gaza» to the Yehud series. On Yehud coins a lily is a not an uncommon symbol. Indeed there is a series where it appears as the main type on the obverse. As far as the author is aware the lily does not appear on coins of Gaza, nor on any other identified Philisto-Arabian issue.

In the chronological sequence, we first have the well-known series of Yehud coins with the Athena head on the obverse and on the reverse the owl with the ethnic 'Yehud' in various forms next to it.<sup>4</sup> Then comes the group to which the present coin belongs, with the lily symbol in the place of the ethnic. This is followed by the apparently anepigraphic type with the lily as the main obverse type and the owl on the reverse which was first published by Mildenberg in his study of Yehud coins<sup>5</sup> and later republished by Meshorer.<sup>6</sup>

The present reattribution is proposed with a certain reserve, but it would not be shaken even if a new specimen appeared to bear both the Yehud ethnic and the lily symbol. On the contrary, this – yet imaginary – new type would be a confirmation of the proposed sequence.

Arnold Spaer  
PO Box 750  
IL-91007 Jerusalem



3 : 1

- 1 E.T. Newell, *Miscellanea Numismatica: Cyrene to India*, NNM 82 (New York 1938), p. 54, 26.
- 2 SNG ANS Part 6, 27.
- 3 *Münzen und Medaillen FPL* 602, November/December 1996, 95.
- 4 Y. Meshorer, *Ancient Jewish Coinage Vol. I* (Dix Hills, 1982), p. 115, 2–4; L. Mildenberg, *Yehud. A Preliminary Study of the Provincial Coinage of Judaea*, *Essays in Honor of Margaret Thompson* (Wetteren 1979), p. 193 and pl. 21, 5–9.
- 5 Mildenberg, p. 193 and pl. 21, 10.
- 6 Meshorer, p. 116, 7.