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The Coin Finds at the Excavations of Bethsaida

DURING THE EXCAVATIONS CONDUCTED AT BETHSAIDA by R. Arav and his staff, some 220 coins were discovered up to March 1996. These can be divided into the following groups and periods:

Group	Period
Persian	ca. 450–330 BCE
Hellenistic	ca. 260–125 BCE
Jewish coins	ca. 128 BCE–84/85 CE
Palestinian city coins	ca. 100–300 CE
Late Roman and Byzantine coins	ca. 310–578 CE
Islamic coinage	ca. 900–1400 CE
European coins	ca. 1556–1728 CE
Ottoman coins from Ahmet III to Abdul Hamid II	1703–1879 CE

The finds of the Persian period (ca. 450–330 BCE) are scarce; we have only one Athenian tetradrachm that can be dated to approximately 450 BCE and two silver coins of the city of Tyre (ca. 400–330 BCE).

The Hellenistic period is represented by twenty-six Ptolemaic bronze coins of Ptolemy II and III, which compose about 12 percent of the entire find. These are followed by a rather large number of Seleucid coins: Those of Antiochus III the Great, who conquered Palestine from the Ptolemies with the battle of Paneas in 200 BCE (seventeen), followed by coins of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (four), Demetrius I (three),

and some unidentifiable Seleucid coins (twenty-three), for a total of sixty-four specimens, which are about one-third of the entire find.

The group of Jewish coins can be subdivided into Hasmonean and Herodian groupings. The Hasmonean group is composed of the coins of John Hyrcanus I (five), Alexander Jannaeus (four), Aristobulus II (four); the Herodian group is composed of the coins of Herod I (one), Archelaus (one), Antipas (one), Philippus (three), Agrippa I (one), and Agrippa II (two), altogether twenty-two specimens, or 10 percent of the find.

The city coins are few. The cities represented are Bostra (one), Damascus (two), Diocaesarea (one), Tiberias (three), and Tyre (five).

The dominant mint from the Hellenistic period is that of the city of Tyre with forty-three specimens, Seleucid issues of the second century BCE. This is not surprising, at least for the northern part of the country.¹ The other mints of that period are Alexandria with nineteen specimens; Salamis, Cyprus, with four; and Sidon with one specimen.

There are only two Late Roman coins and three Byzantine coins that were struck under Justinus II (565–578 CE).

The Islamic coins range from the eighth to the fourteenth centuries with twenty-two specimens, twenty-one of which are Mamluk.

Quite a few Ottoman coins were discovered, thirteen of which come from tomb no. 3. All these are pierced and seem to have formed part of a headgear.

The finds close with some modern Syrian coins issued in 1947 and 1965 respectively.

It is quite astonishing that only two Late Roman and three Byzantine coins were discovered—astonishing because in almost all other excavations in the region, the Late Roman coins are quantitatively dominant. Their absence in Bethsaida could point to a gap in the occupation of Bethsaida between the late fourth and the early eighth centuries, although also the Ummayyad (early Arab issues ca. 650–750 CE) coin find includes only two specimens.

Two European coins, one of the Venetian doge Lorenzo Priuli (1556–59) and the other of Philippus V, king of Spain (1724–46), came to light as well and were probably found here as a result of commercial relations between the Ottoman empire and Europe. Since both specimens are pierced, they were in secondary use and probably also formed part of an Arab woman's headgear.

COIN FINDS AT BETHSAIDA EXCAVATION







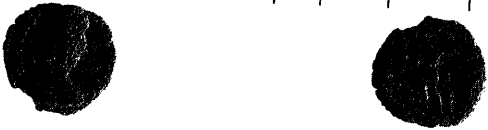











Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
AREA A						
1. Athens	A	Athens	A	790	2550	ca. 450 BCE, tetradrachm
						
2. Tyre	C	Tyre	A	303	1224	silver sheqel
3. Ptolemy II or III	D	Alexandria	A	46/90	1941	Tetradrachm, copper core
4. Ptolemy II or III	E	Salamis, Cyprus	A	585	1929	ca. 287–241 BCE
5. Ptolemy II or III	E	Salamis, Cyprus	A	551	1762	
6. Ptolemy II or III	E		A	502		
7. Ptolemy II or III	E	Tyre	A	767	2377	
8. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	A		1951	surface find
9. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	A	773	2413	
10. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	A	817	2831	
11. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	A	818	2851	
12. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	A	818	2859	completely corroded
13. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	A	825	2918	
14. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	A	830	2982	
15. Antiochus III	G		A	830	2936	222–187 BCE
16. Antiochus III	G		A	831	2973	
17. Demetrius I	H	Tyre	A	818	2862	162–150 BCE (162)
						
18. Demetrius II	H	Tyre	A	828	2959	130–125 (2nd reign)
19. Demetrius or Antiochus	H	Tyre	A		2801	
						


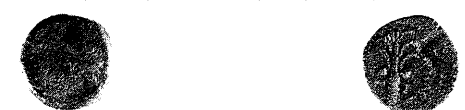




Table of Coin Finds, Area A







Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
20. Seleucid	I	Tyre	A	747	2274	
21. Alexander Jannaeus	N	Jerusalem	A	817	2848	103–76 BCE
22. Alexander Jannaeus	O	Jerusalem	A	831	2945	(78)
						
23. Aristobulus II	N	Jerusalem	A	818	2857	67–63 BCE
24. Herod I	P	Jerusalem	A	859	8429	37–4 BCE
25. Antipas	Q	Tiberias	A	858	8384	4 BCE–39 CE (33)
						
26. Philippus	R	Paneas	A	784	2479	4 BCE–34 CE
27. Elagabalus	Z	Tyre	A		2944	218–222 CE
						
28. Elagabalus			A	830	2960	city coin; reverse blank
29. Severus Alexander	Ab	Bostra	A	825	2919	
30. ?			A	829	2928	probably city coin
31. Constantine I	Ak		A	734	2223/ 1992	308–337 CE
						
32. Crispus	Al	Arelatum	A	787	2532	317–326 CE
						






Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
33. Justinus II	Am		A	818	2832	565-578 CE. M = follis
34. Justinus II	An		A			K = 1/2 follis
35. Ummayyad or Abassid	Ao		A	784	2502	gold dinar
						
36. Mameluk	Ao		A	tomb 63, 1733		
37. Mameluk			A	46/90	1952	coin-shaped piece of copper
38. Mameluk	blank		A	818	2843	
39. Mameluk	blank		A	831	2962	
40. Lorenzo Priuli	Aq	Venice	A	788	2537	1556-1559; 4 soldi, copper
41. Philippus V	Ar	Spain	A	850	8517	1724-1746 (1728)
						
42. Token	At	Germany	A			Rechenpfennig
43. ?			A	818	2528	
44. ?			A	817	2830	completely corroded
45. Ahmed III	As	Egypt	A	818	2343	1703-1730
46. Osman III	As	Constantinople	A	858	8379	1754-1757
47. Mahmud II	As	Constantinople	A	858	8401	1808-1839 (1811)
48. Mahmud II	As	Constantinople	A	858	8397	(1819)
49. Mahmud II	As	Constantinople	A	791	2638	(1826-1830)
50. Abdul Medjid	As	Constantinople	A	858	8380	1839-1861 (1841) 20 Paras
51. Abdul Medjid	As	Constantinople	A	858	8398	(1843) 20 Paras
52. Abdul Medjid	As	Constantinople	A	850	8363	(1843) 20 Paras
53. Abdul Medjid	As	Constantinople	A	Tomb 62	1676	(1854) 5 Paras
54. Abdul Medjid	As	Constantinople	A	181	2528	



Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
57. Abdul Hamid II	As	Constantinople	A	858	8385	(1879) 5 Paras
58. Ottoman			A	818	2851	
59. Ottoman			A	790	2579	
60. ?			A	858	8406	unclear fragment of a coin
AREA B						
61. Ptolemy II or III	E	Tyre	B	364	4146	
62. Ptolemy II or III	D	Alexandria	B		2062	Tetradrachm on copper core; surface find
63. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	B	362	4152	
64. Ptolemy II or III	E	Tyre	B	371	4212	
65. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	B	450	5485	
66. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	B			found by a Bedouin
67. Antiochus III	G		B	312	3064	222-187 BCE
68. Antiochus III	G		B	369	4169	
69. Antiochus III	G		B	448	5511	
70. Antiochus III	G		B	493	5745	
71. Antiochus III	G		B	603	5838	
72. Antiochus III	G		B	622	5947	
73. Antiochus III	G		B	626	6070	
						
74. Antiochus III	G		B	674	6176	
75. Antiochus III	G		B	676	6183	
76. Antiochus III	G		B	689	6336	
77. Antiochus III	J		B		2062	survey find
78. Antiochus IV	I		B	672	6127	175-164 BCE
						
79. Antiochus IV?	K		B	42-601	5862	
						

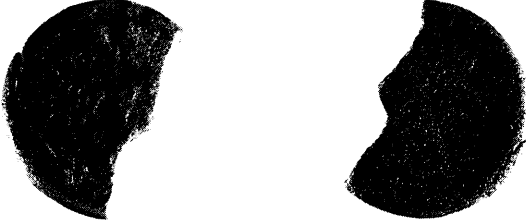

Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
80. Antiochus V	H	Tyre	B	408	5049	163-162 BCE
						
81. Antiochus or Demetrius	H	Tyre	B	42-601	5872	
82. Antiochus IV or Demetrius I	J	Tyre	B	626	5615	
						
83. Demetrius I	H	Tyre	B	493	5731	162-150 (152)
84. Demetrius I	H	Tyre	B	672	6138	
85. Demetrius I(?)	J	Tyre	B	612	5990	
						
86. Antiochus VII	H	Tyre	B	316	3093	138-129 BCE
						
87. Antiochus VII	J	Sidon	B	496	5825	
						


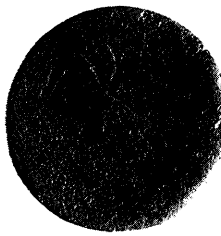
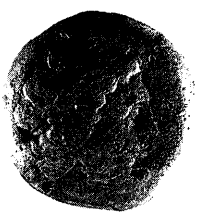
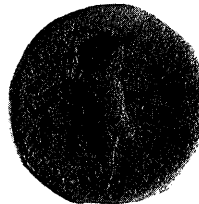






Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
88. Antiochus VII	H	Tyre	B	626	5875	
						
89. Demetrius II	E	Tyre	B	313		silver didrachm
90. Demetrius II	E	Tyre	B	313		
91. Demetrius II	E	Tyre	B	367		1st reign 145-139 BCE
92. Seleucid	H	Tyre	B	252		
93. Seleucid	H	Tyre	B	499	5804	
						
94. Seleucid	H	Tyre	B	499	5803	
						
95. Seleucid	H	Tyre	B	587	6712	
						
96. Seleucid	H	Tyre	B	619	5917	
97. Seleucid	H	Tyre	B	668	6115	
98. Seleucid	H	Tyre	B	672	6151	
99. Seleucid (?)	K		B	H36	2001	
100. Hyrcanus I	N	Jerusalem	B	369	4143	135-104 BCE
101. Hyrcanus I	N	Jerusalem	B	612	5922	
						
102. Hyrcanus I	N	Jerusalem	B		6331	surface survey
						



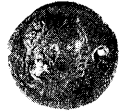


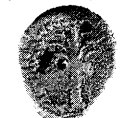


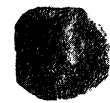



Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
103. Alexander Jannaeus	N	Jerusalem	B	314		103-76 BCE
						
104. Alexander Jannaeus	O	Jerusalem	B	524	1643	
						
105. Aristobulus II	N	Jerusalem	B	303	1290	67-63 BCE
106. Aristobulus II	N	Jerusalem	B	302	1217	
107. Hasmonaeans	N	Jerusalem	B	301	1208	
						
108. Archelaos	P	Jerusalem	B	424	5200	4 BCE -6 CE
						
109. Philippus	S	Paneas	B	550	1738	4 BCE-34 CE
						
110. Philippus	S	Paneas	B	301	1235	
111. Agrippa I	T	Jerusalem	B	L-43 494	5755	37-44 CE
						


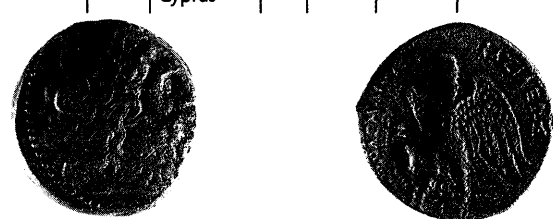
Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
112. Agrippa II	R	Tiberias	B	491	5732	ca. 50-100 CE
						
113. Agrippa II	Ra	Paneas (?)	B	436	5320	(84/5 CE)
						
114. Trajanus	U	Rome	B	451	5467	98-117 CE
						
115. Trajanus	V	Tiberias	B	604	5830	
						
116. Trajanus	W	Tiberias	B	494	5738	
						
117. Trajanus	X	Tiberias	B	493	5750	




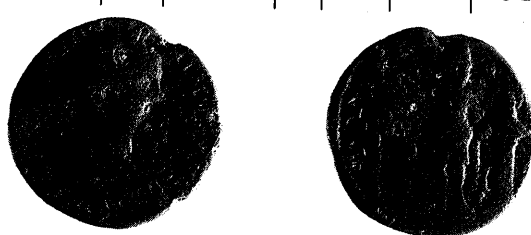
Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
118. Antoninus Pius	Y	Diocae-sarea	B	492	5729	
119. Julia Mamaea	Ya	Tyre	B	503	1885	
120. Salonina	Ad	Tyre	B	526	1704	
121. Valerianus	Ae	Tyre	B	586	1925	
122. Otacilia Severa	Af	Damascus	B	558		
123. Otacilia Severa	Ag	Damascus	B			
124. Unidentified city coin	Af		B	610	5896	
125. Unidentified city coin	Ai		B	619	5923	
126. Ummayyad	Ao		B	574	6462	
127. Ummayyad	Ap		B	681	6292	
128. Al-Malik al Adil Nur al-Din Mahmud	Ao	Damascus	B	1146-1174		fil Atabeg of Haleb Zandjid dynasty
129. Al-Malik al Adil Nur al-Din Mahmud	Ao	Damascus	B	1146-1174		fil Atabeg of Haleb Zandjid dynasty
130. Maml. Al-Salih Imad al-din Ismail	Ao	"	B	303		fil
131. Maml. Al-Salih Imad al-din Ismail	Ao		B	405		fil
132. Maml. Al-Salih Imad al-din Ismail	Ao		B	608		fil
133. Mameluk (?)			B	329		fil
134. Mameluk (?)			B			fil; blank
135. Mameluk (?)	Ao		B	302	3000	
136. Mameluk (?)	Ao		B	350	4056	

Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
138. Mameluk (?)	Ao		B	614	6049	
139. Mameluk			B		6146	blank
140. Al-Ashraf Abu al-Nasr Qa'itbay	Ao		B	302		fil
141. Al-Ashraf Abu al-Nasr Qa'itbay	AN	Persia	B			copper
142. Mahmud II	As	Constanti-nople	B	421		20 Paras 1826
143. Mahmud II	As	Constanti-nople	B			Uclik 1834
144. Mahmud II	As	Constanti-nople	B	311		1837
145. Mahmud II	As		B	589		Para
146. ?	As		B	303		
147. ?	As		B	301		Para
148. ?	As		B	301		Para
149. ?	As		B	302		Para pierced
150. ?	As		B	302		Para pierced
151. ?	As		B	302		Para pierced
152. ?	As		B	302		Para pierced
153. ?			B	301	..32	silver fragments
154. Syria			B	641	6040	modern coin 1947
155. Syria			B			modern coin 1947(50 Piastre)
156.			B	585		effaced
157. Medal or token, modern, pierced.						
AREA C						
158. Tyre		B	Tyre	C	9094	silver obol
						
159. Ptolemy II	F	Alexandria	C	952	9554	285-247 BCE

Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
160. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	C	918	9220	285-241 BCE
						
161. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	C	918	9221	
						
162. Ptolemy II or III	E	Tyre	C	967	9617	
						
163. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	C	983	9797	
164. Ptolemy II or III	E	Alexandria	C	986	9860	
165. Antiochus III	M		C	901	9077	222-187 BCE
						
166. Antiochus III	G		C	920	9189	
						
167. Antiochus III	G		C	924	9227	

Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
168. Antiochus III	G		C	943	9329	
						
169. Antiochus IV	H	Tyre	C	901	9089	175-164 BCE
						
170. Antiochus V	H	Tyre	C	967	9640	164-162 BCE
171. Antiochus VII	H	Tyre	C	977	9709	138-129 BCE
						
172. Demetrius II	H	Tyre	C	911	9114	130-125 BCE
						
173. Demetrius II	H	Tyre	C	901	9018	
174. Demetrius II	H	Tyre	C	917	9181	
175. Demetrius II	E	Tyre	C	907	9064	silver tetradrachm
176. Seleucid	H	Tyre	C	901	9108	
						
177. Seleucid	H	Tyre	C	909	9042	
178. Seleucid	H	Tyre	C	915	9150	
179. Seleucid	H	Tyre	C	917	9173	
						
180. Seleucid	H	Tyre	C	917	9159	

Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
181. Seleucid	H	Tyre	C	917	9168	
182. Seleucid	H	Tyre	C	918	9226	
						
183. Hellenistic	(?)		C	951	9502	completely effaced
184. Probably Phoenician			C	901	9109	traces of striking
185. Hyrcanus I	N	Jerusalem	C	911	9100	135-104 BCE
186. Justinus II	A	Constantinople	C	917	9182	565-578 CE
187. Mameluk			C	961	9532	
188. Mameluk	App		C	963	9558	
189. Mameluk	App		C	964	9597	
190. Mameluk			C	964	9598	blank
191. Mameluk	A		C	H/39		
192. Abdul Medjid	As	Constantinople	C	953	9435	1839-1861
193. Syria			C	969	9708	modern coin (1965)
MISCELLANEOUS						
194. Ptolemy II	E	Salamis, Cyprus		150	2524	285-247 BCE
						
195. Ptolemy II	E	Salamis, Cyprus		150	2524	
196. Ptolemy II	E	Alexandria		46/90	1951	
197. Ptolemy III	E	Alexandria		T64		247-222 BCE
198. Antiochus IV	J	Tyre				175-164 BCE

Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
199. Antiochus V	M			977	9732	164-162 BCE
						
200. Demetrius II	H	Tyre		598	6474	145-139 BCE 1st reign
						
201. Seleucid	H	Tyre		401	8393	
202. Hyrcanus I	N	Jerusalem		588	6412	135-104 BCE
203. Aristobulus II	N	Jerusalem		150	2521	67-63 BCE
						
204. Elagabalus	Aa	Tyre		150A	2522	218-222 CE
						
205. Mameluk				853	8535	blank
206. Mameluk						blank
207. Mahmud II	As	Constantinople		524	1663	1808-1859
208. Mahmud II	As	Constantinople				(1836)
TOMB 3 (BEDOUIN)						
209. Mahmud II	As	Constantinople		1252	1808-1839	10 Paras
210. Mahmud II	As	Constantinople		1252		10 Paras
211. Mahmud II	As	Constantinople		1252		20 Paras

Ruler	Type ^a	Mint	Area	Locus	Basket	Remarks
212. Mahmud II	As	Constanti- nople		1252		20 Paras
213. Mahmud II	As	Constanti- nople		1252		20 Paras
214. Mahmud II	As	Constanti- nople		1252		20 Paras
215. Mahmud II	As	Constanti- nople		1252		20 Paras
216. Abdul Medjid	As	Constanti- nople		1252	1839- 1861	
217. Abdul Medjid	As	Constanti- nople		1252		10 Paras
218. Abdul Medjid	As	Constanti- nople		1252		20 Paras
219. Abdul Medjid	As	Constanti- nople		1252		20 Paras
220. Abdul Hamid II	As	Constanti- nople		1252	(1879)	5 Paras
221.				1252		blank, coin-shaped silver pendant

a. See Key to Types on next page.

Key to Types	
A	Head of Pallas Athene/Owl
B	Dolphin/Owl
C	Melqarth riding hippocamp/Owl
D	Head of Ptolemy I/Eagle
E	Head of Zeus Ammon/Eagle
F	Head of Hercules-Alexander/Eagle
G	Head of Antiochus III/Apollo standing
H	Head of King/Palm-tree
I	Head of King/Apollo seated on Omphalos
J	Head of King/War-galley
K	Head of King/standing figure
L	Head of Apollo/Female figure standing
M	Head of Apollo/Nike standing
N	Double cornucopiae/Legend surrounded by wreath
O	Star/Anchor
P	Anchor/Double cornucopiae
Q	Palm-branch/Legend surrounded by wreath
R	Head of Augustus/Tetrastyle temple
Ra	Bust of Domitian/Nike standing
S	Head of Tiberius/Tetrastyle temple
T	Umbrella-shaped canopy/Three ears of barley
U	Head of Hercules/Boar walking
V	Head of Trajanus/Tyche standing
W	Head of Trajanus/Palm-branch between double cornucopiae
X	Head of Trajanus/Anchor
Y	Bust of Antoninus Pius/Temple of Tyche
Z	Bust of Elagabalus/Temple of Tyche
Aa	Bust of Elagabalus/Tyche standing, etc.
Ab	Bust of Severus Alexander/Bust of Tyche
Ac	Bust of Julia Mamaea/Ovoid baetyl
Ad	Bust of Salonina/Victoria standing
Ae	Bust of Valerianus/Roma seated
Af	Bust of Otacila Severa/She-wolf suckling twins
Ag	Bust of Otacila Severa/Scene of sacrifice
Ah	Figure standing
Ai	Figure standing/Palm-tree
Aj	Head of Tyche
Ak	Bust of Constantinus I/Jupiter standing
Al	Bust of Crispus/Legionary in fighting attitude
Am	Justinus and Sophia seated/M
An	Justinus and Sophia seated/K
Ao	Legend/Legend
Ap	Legend/Chalice-shaped object
App	Star of David/Star of David
Aq	Doge and Maria/Lion of St. Marcus
Ar	Heraldic symbol of Spain/Castilia and Leone
As	Tughra/Legend
At	Cornucopiae

CHAPTER NOTES

1. Kindler (1967) pl. 46.s

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The Fishing Implements and Maritime Activities of Bethsaida-Julias (et-Tell)

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER is to present material evidence that one of the occupations of the citizens of Bethsaida-Julias (et-Tell) was fishing in the Sea of Galilee. Geological and geographical evidence for such activity was well established by John J. Shroder and Moshe Inbar in volume 1 of this series. A comprehensive analysis of the fishing implements that were found at the site of Bethsaida-Julias will be part of this author's doctorate theses about the Hellenistic and Early Roman Period at Bethsaida-Julias. In this chapter a small selection of fishing implements and anchors are presented to establish evidence of fishing at Bethsaida-Julias.

All three areas excavated at Bethsaida-Julias have yielded fishing implements. There is no concentrated accumulation in any particular area or building. The items are fairly equally distributed throughout the site on top of the mound in Hellenistic and Early Roman find contexts and in survey finds.

These implements were used in several ways: as weights on throw-nets, drag-nets, and hook-and-line fishing implements; as tools to repair nets; and as anchors for boats. They are separated into two main categories, metal (which includes lead net weights, iron hooks, and iron and bronze needles) and stone (which includes basalt weights, limestone weights, and basalt anchors).