

COINAGE OF PTOLEMAÏS AND SYCAMINUM.

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ACRE seems to have received the name of Ptolemaïs from Ptolemy Philadelphus (B.C., 285-247) but down to B.C., 266 the name Ake alone occurs on the coins. There were no stamped pieces circulating in Phœnicia earlier than the Persian rule.

Coins of the Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt, assigned to Ptolemaïs:—

1. Ptolemaeus I., Soter I., B.C. 305-284. One gold (Egyptian mint).
2. Ptolemaeus II., Philadelphus, B.C. 284-247. Two silver (Egyptian mint) and one copper.
3. Ptolemaeus III., Euergetes I., B.C. 247-222. One gold and eighteen silver.
4. Ptolemaeus IV., Philopator I., B.C. 222-204. One copper.
5. Ptolemaeus VI., Philometor I., B.C. 181-146. One silver Tetradrachm, as King of Syria.

Seleucid Ptolemaic Coins.

1. Demetrius I., Soter, B.C. 162-150. One silver.
2. Alexander I. [Balas], B.C. 152-144. One silver.

Alexander Balas married Cleopatra, daughter of Ptolemy Philometor at Ptolemaïs. 1 Macc: x., 51-58.

After an interval of less than a century from Cleopatra and Antiochus viii (B.C. 125-123), the Autonomous brass coinage begins from B.C. 47. The *inscription* is ΑΚΗ. ΙΕΡ. ΚΑΙ ΑΣ. The *type* is a palm-tree, ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΕΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΣΗΛΟΥ. The prevailing type is, *obv.*, Head of Zeus; *rev.*, Tyche, standing on rudder, on the tiller of which she rests her hand, in which she holds an aplustre.

The city was eventually called Colonia Claudii Caesaris, in consequence of its receiving the privileges of a Roman city from the Emperor Tiberius Claudius (A.D. 41-54).

There are twenty-three Imperial reigns represented on the Ptolemaïs coins from Claudius to Salonina, usually Colonial, with Latin inscriptions: COL. PTOL; COL. CLAUD. PTOL; COL. CLAUD. NERONIA PTOLEMAÏS, *etc.* *Types*: Tyche seated on rock, with the river Belus at her feet.

The Ptolemaïs coins in my Galilean collection are Autonomous, and of the reigns of Trajan, Hadrian, Septimus Severus, Caracalla, Elagabalus, Philip I, Trebonionus Gallus—fourteen all told. On different occasions when visiting Acre I have enquired for local coinage, without result. But on one occasion a Turkish military officer asked me to purchase a handful of silver tetradrachms of Alexander the Great. It is possible that these tetradrachms may have been struck at the neighbouring city of Sycaminum (Haifa), for two specimens of this reign (B.C. 336–323), struck at Sycaminum and Scythopolis, are in the Paris and Gotha Museums.

There seems to have been no Greek Sycaminum coinage of the Ptolemies, Kings of Egypt. Of the Seleucid Kings of Syria the British Museum Catalogue (1878) supplies the following list:

Seleucid Sycaminum Coins.

1. Cleopatra, B.C. 125. One silver.
2. Cleopatra and Antiochus VIII., B.C. 125–121. One silver of Phoenicia; one copper, with portrait of Antiochus.
3. Antiochus IX., Cyzicenus, B.C. 116–95. One silver of Phoenicia.

In the Introduction to the *Coinage of the Seleucid Kings of Syria* (B.M., p. xxx) it is recorded that in the year B.C. 103 Ptolemy Lathyrus landed at the port of Sycaminum with 30,000 men, which proves this city to have been of some importance about the time at which these Syrian coins were struck.
