

11-Year-Old Finds Rare Coin That May Have Been Minted at the Temple

An 11-year-old girl in Israel has discovered a silver shekel coin that archaeologists say may have been minted by a priest on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago.

The girl, Liel Krutokop, found the rare coin while sifting through ancient dirt during a family-friendly “archaeological experience” done in coordination with the City of David and Emek Tzurim National Park in Jerusalem.

“We poured the bucket with the dirt on the strainer, and as we filtered the stones that were inside, I saw something round,” Krutokop said in a statement. “At first, I did not know what it was, but it looked different from all the other stones ... I was very excited.

The coin was engraved with “Second Year,” indicating that it was used during the second year of the Great Revolt of the Jews against the Roman empire between A.D. 67-68. On the other side of the coin is an inscription marking the headquarters of the high priest, and next to it appears in ancient Hebrew the words, “Holy Jerusalem.”

Dr. Robert Kool, head of the Coin Department of the Israel Antiquities Authority, says the coin was probably made from high-quality silver found in the second temple reserves.

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