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GLASS JAR STAMP AND COIN WEIGHT

SYRIA AND IRAQ; C. 8TH CENTURY

JAR STAMP: DIAM: 4.7 CM
COIN WEIGHT: DIAM: 3.1 CM

A reliable system for weights and measures is a precondition for all trade. Coin weights and jar stamps provided a kind of guarantee of quality and quantity. The former confirmed the precise weight of a coin and the latter the exact volume of a container. Jar stamps were melted onto glass containers of various kinds. The fact that these official stamps and weights were made of glass ensured that neither text nor weight could be changed.

A typical inscription on stamps gives a fixed value or a fixed measure and the name of the local authority. The olive-green coin weight bears the following inscription:

“In the name of God. God commanded honesty, and the stamping of this one dinar was ordered by al-Qasim ibn Ubaydallah [made by] Muslim ibn Arraf. The year one hundred and nineteen.”

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Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat. 361;

Joachim Meyer, Rasmus Bech Olsen and Peter Wandel: *Beyond words: calligraphy from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2024, cat. 96, p. 255;

