

# Islamic Origins

Early Islamic coins



Fig. 1. Byzantine solidi with Heraclius, Heraclius Constantine, and Heraclonas. With the permission of the American Numismatic Society, 1925.172.34. (Photo: courtesy of the American Numismatic Society)



Fig. 4. Arab-Byzantine solidi imitating the solidi of Heraclius, Heraclius Constantine, and Heraclonas. Attributed to the reign of Mu'awiya (r. A.H. 41–60 [661–80]). (After Album and Goodwin, *Pre-Reform Coinage of the Early Islamic Period*, SICA 1, 606; reproduced with the permission of the Visitors of the Ashmolean Museum)



Fig. 2. Sasanian drachm of Khusraw II. With the permission of the American Numismatic Society, 2004.14.222. (Photo: courtesy of the American Numismatic Society)



Fig. 3. Arab-Sasanian drachm with *bism Allāh* in second quadrant of the obverse (left) margin. Bishapur, 25 Yazdgard era (A.H. 36). (After Stephen Album and Tony Goodwin, *The Pre-Reform Coinage of the Early Islamic Period*, vol. 1 of the *Sylloge of Islamic Coins in the Ashmolean Museum* [henceforth *SICA 1*] [Oxford: Ashmolean Museum, 2002], 110; reproduced with the permission of the Visitors of the Ashmolean Museum)



Fig. 5. Arab-Sasanian drachm with *Muhammad rasūl Allāh* in the obverse (left) margin. Bishapur, A.H. 66. (After Album and Goodwin, *Pre-Reform Coinage of the Early Islamic Period*, SICA 1, 152; reproduced with the permission of the Visitors of the Ashmolean Museum)

# “standing caliph” coins after 72/691



- Sassanian model “standing caliph” coins also have “khalifat Allah”

# Rebel coins

- 66/685-6, silver dracham of Zubayrid governor of Bishapur: “In the name of God Muhammad is the Prophet of God”
- 69/688-9, silver dracham Bishapur, Kharijite slogan: “In the name of God, judgment belongs to God alone”
- 72/691-2: Zubayrid governor of Sistan: “One God, except he no other God exists, Muhammad is the messenger of God



# Dirham, Wasit 94/712



- **OBV Field**  
لا اله الا  
الله وحده  
لا شريك له

There is no deity except |  
(the one) God alone |  
He has no equal

#### **OBV Margin**

بسم الله ضرب هذا الدرهم بواسط في سنة ثلث و تسعين  
In the name of God. This Dirham was struck in  
Wasit in the year three and ninety

#### **REV Field**

الله احد الله  
الصمد لم يلد و  
لم يولد و لم يكن  
له كفوا احد

God is One God |

The eternal and indivisible, who  
has not begotten, and |  
has not been begotten and never is  
there |  
His equal

#### **REV Margin**

محمد رسول الله ارسله بالهدى و دين الحق  
ليظهره على الدين كله ولو كره المشركون  
Muhammad is the messenger of  
God. He sent him with guidance  
and the true religion to reveal it to  
all religions even if the polytheists  
abhor it.