

THE

שקל

# SHEKEL



VOLUME XLVI No. 2, 3 MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE 2013

# Blessings of the Faith



*By Marvin Tameanko*



- Plus:**
- *Rarities and more at big Spinks auction*
  - *King Kalakaua's remarkable friend*
  - *Quezon's Quest: A legacy lives on*
  - *The Litvak and Abe Lincoln*

Published by the American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.

# HONORING GEDERA'S FOUNDING



BY DR. VLADIMIR BERNSHTAM

In 2004, Israel celebrated 120 years since the founding of the town Gedera. In honor of this event a special medal was made in the city of Kharkov in Ukraine. What is the relationship between Gedera and Kharkov?

*The Shekel* has featured a story about the Zionist organization of Jewish students, Bilu [Nahum Gutman, Dr. Chaim Chissin – Bilu Pioneer, “The Shekel” v.XLII, No. 3, pp. 12-15, 2009.]

Bilu was founded in Kharkov in 1882. This organization, headed by

Israel Belkind, united together up to 500 members.

In Bilu, there were two groups of Bilu'im: the first insisted on the immediate resettlement of Eretz Israel, the other felt that it was impossible to begin the resettlement while Turkey did not give political rights to Jews. This second part of Bilu'im travelled to Istanbul in an attempt to carry out political activities.

In July 1882, a team of 14 people (seven from Kharkov and seven

*Continued*

# MEDAL HONORS 120TH ANNIVERSARY



*Image courtesy Vladimir Bernshtam*

*A uniface medal honors the 120th anniversary of the founding of Gedara in Israel.*

*Continued*

from Moscow), headed by Belkind, arrived in Palestine. They settled in the municipality of Jaffa in the agricultural school “Mikveh Israel.”

A writer named I. M. Pines became the head of Bilu'im. In Istanbul the Bilu'im were disappointed with the results of their political efforts, and in 1884 they also travelled to Palestine.

Pines purchased 3300 dunums of land near the Arab village of Katra. Here, in December 1884, arose the settlement Gedera, where the majority of Bilu'im moved and began the production of wine and brandy.

The scenic photo at the beginning of this story shows the village of Gedera in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. [Israel National Photo Collection].

The year 2004 marked the 120th anniversary of the founding of Gedera. On that date, in Kharkov, the organization “Tarbut LAAM” on the initiative of its chairman Grigory Dubovis issued a commemorative medal (please see above).

The people of Kharkov requested that 200 copies of the medal were to be made in a Lugansk company, “Columbus,” (the reverse side of the medal has a sticker label with the logo of the company). The medal was placed in a special box.

This medal was awarded to organizers of the seminar commemorating the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gedera, which took place on Dec. 21, 2004 at the Museum of Bilu'im History in Gedera. ☐