

"The Anatolian Seljuqs and the Ayyubids; political relations and intermarriage, through Coins"

Mohammad Younis

Fayoum University- Egypt

1. ABSTRACT:

For regional history, coins are a much-underrated source for the relationships between governors to each other. Providing the entire hierarchy of power- from the local governor up to the caliph - at the time and location of minting and the inclusion of the name onto the coin protocol (*sikka*) and into the Friday prayer (*khutba*) served in their time as proof who is the actual ruler and to whom his pertinence. Both had a similar political value. That is the exact role that coins had played as the only contemporary historical document to show the political and social relationships between the Anatolian seljuqs and the Ayyubids.

The Ayyubid sultans were keen to establish friendly relations with the Seljuqs of Rum for not joining the Zangids against them, and because Anatolia is the barrier between the Byzantines and the eastern part of the Islamic world. The history has many political events between the Ayyubids and the Anatolian Seljūqs, such as wars, treaties and change loyalty of some rulers to others. Some coins appeared showing some of these political events by recording names and titles of rulers and their followers, and recording also the establishment of some alliances between rulers of Anatolian Seljuqs and sultans of various branches of Ayyubids.

The importance of coins extended beyond the recording of political events, they also recorded some aspects of social life that some sultans struck commemorative coins commemorating the particular social occasion, and this is what will be studied in this research.