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ten der römisch-republikanischen Welt stammen: Als Beispiel nenne ich vom anderen Ende des Imperiums die typisch keltischen Gegenstände «Wolfs(?)feldzeichen» und «Drachentrompete»<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> Crawford Taf. LXVIII, 88.

## A NEW CLASS OF SOLIDUS FOR CONSTANTINE V FOR THE MINT OF SYRACUSE

Michael D. O'Hara

A.D. 741–742 ?

Obv. 6 (N CONSTANT)N1 ∅L, bust of Constantine facing, wearing crown and chlamys, holding cross potent held inwards in right hand and akakia in left.  
Rev. (6 NO LEO)N PA M∅, bust of Leo III facing, wearing crown and chlamys, holding globus cruciger in right hand and akakia in left.

3.69 g 18 mm ↑ ↓



The coin is badly rounded, and of the usual poor fabric, with rough irregular edges and somewhat inferior gold, typical of the mint of Syracuse at this time<sup>1</sup>.

The only solidi attributed to Constantine V for Syracuse are of the type with three busts, dated to 751–775<sup>2</sup>. Grierson has stated that no gold coinage is known

<sup>1</sup> Ph. Grierson, *Catalogue of the Byzantine Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks and Whittemore Collection*, Washington, 1973, Vol. III, Part I, p. 296. See also p. 26 where it is suggested that the low weights of Constantine V's Syracusan solidi (751–775) might be a reflection of the catastrophe that overtook the mainland solidus in the middle years of the century.

<sup>2</sup> *Op. cit.* 308–310, 15 a–f; D. Ricotti Prina, *La Monetazione Aurea Delle Zecchi Minori Bizantine*, Rome 1972, Pl. 10, 20; C. Morrisson, *Catalogue des monnaies byzantines*, Paris 1970 Vol. II Pl. LXVII, 1–2; R. Spahr, *Le Monete Siciliane 582–1282*, Zürich/Graz 1976, P. X, 323–328; W. Wroth, *Imperial Byzantine Coins in the British Museum*, London 1908, Pl. XLIV, 16; J. Tolstoi, *Monnaies byzantines*, St. Petersburg 1912–1914, Pl. 67, 42–44.

(for Syracuse) for the sole reign of Constantin V, a gap that is difficult to explain <sup>3</sup>. David Sear in his handbook does in fact list a solidus for the sole reign <sup>4</sup> and gives the reference as Ratto 1745. This, however, was noted inadvertently, as Ratto 1745 is a product of the Mint of Constantinople – of the usual fabric showing both emperors holding a cross potent.

The class I solidi of Constantinople are of the type with the reverse <sup>5</sup> depicting Constantine V holding a cross potent held outwards, and the obverse with Leo III holding a cross potent held inwards. The solidus described here, although showing Constantine V on the obverse holding the cross potent held inwards, and on the reverse Leo III holding a globus cruciger, rather than a cross potent as perhaps might have been expected, is comparable chronologically to Constantinopolitan class I (741–751). This, it would seem, is the first instance of the use of this combination of cross potent and globus cruciger; from the time of Irene (797) it is used regularly in Syracuse <sup>6</sup> and from the reign of Nicephorus I (802) also at Constantinople.

The extreme rarity of this class for Syracuse, if a period of ten years (741–751) is considered, is difficult to understand. It could be suggested, as the engraving or style of the piece published here is closer to the last Syracusan issues of Leo III than to the issues of Constantine V after 751, that it was struck in 741–742. That is to say that the issue was prepared in the normal way, after the usual delay for the news of the death of Leo III to reach Sicily, and was then disrupted by the struggle with Artavasdus, when it would have been uncertain to the Government in Sicily who was in power in Constantinople during the sixteen months between July 742 and November 743.

<sup>3</sup> D. O. op. cit. p. 295.

<sup>4</sup> Byzantine Coins and their Values, London 1974, 255, 1564.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. D. O. p. 292.

<sup>6</sup> Unusually, on the two rare Syracusan solidi of Irene, the side with Irene holding cross potent seems to be the reverse; cf. D. O. p. 348.

## RESTITUTION A MEGEN (PAYS-BAS) D'UNE MONNAIE JADIS ATTRIBUEE A FRANQUEMONT

Michel Dhénin

Dans la *Revue belge de numismatique* de 1863, A. Morel-Fatio <sup>1</sup> publiait comme monnaie de Franquemont une pièce «d'une conservation médiocre» sur laquelle il lisait: ...NOMISMA GI... et sur l'autre face ...BENED.QVI.VENIT ... Il y avait reconnu le type de Deventer, Kampen et Zwolle: trois écus opposés par le sommet et une croix feuillue cantonnée de quatre roses. A. Morel-Fatio avait vérifié dans les ouvrages de P. O. Van der Chijs que cette légende ne pouvait convenir au monnayage commun de ces trois villes, ni à ceux de Hasselt et de Zutphen qui utilisèrent le même type. Prenant argument de ce que le mot NVMISMA figure dans les légendes des monnaies de Franquemont, et enhardi par les deux lettres à Nicolas de Gilley, seigneur de Franquemont; il voyait même l'arbre arraché des armes de Gilley sur l'un des écus, et le faisait figurer sur le dessin, tout en

<sup>1</sup> A. Morel-Fatio, Monete inédite de Gilley-Franquemont, RBN, 1863, 44–46, pl. IX, 2.