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Es stimmt mich traurig, dass der «höfliche Rezensent» meinen Ausführungen nicht so zu folgen vermochte, wie ich sie niederschrieb. Man wäre berechtigt, mir vorzuwerfen, dass ich beim einen oder anderen «Elaborat» ausführlicher hätte sein können, weniger Kenntnisse, auch der Literatur hätte voraussetzen dürfen. Das numismatische Quellenmaterial ist nicht chaotisch, aber sehr komplex. Nach den von Weiser genannten «Mühen der Sichtung» lässt sich eine Ordnung aber schon feststellen. Wenige haben die Gelegenheit, sich dieser Mühen zu unterziehen, und der Autor macht sich keine falschen Vorstellungen über die Grösse der interessierten Leserschaft. Solange aber Herr Weiser an eben diesen Mühen nicht teilnimmt, sollte er sich gleichermassen davor hüten, allzu grosse Illusionen über die Berechtigung und die Durchschlagskraft seiner Massnahmen zum Schutz dieses Publikums zu hegen.

aber nur den Lesern klar, die die Umstände nicht scheuen, den Originaltext nochmals zu konsultieren. Und in Anbetracht menschlicher Bequemlichkeit ist das eine verschwindend kleine Minderheit. Wurde darauf spekuliert, oder liegt ein zufälliges Versehen nach der Redewendung «Zitieren ist Glückssache» vor? Letzteres wäre theoretisch möglich, die Häufigkeit solcher Fälle macht es aber höchst unwahrscheinlich. Die erste Version ist glaubhafter – man erspüre nur die vorherrschende Stimmung dieser sogenannten Rezension Weisers. Solche Dinge sind an der Tagesordnung auf dem polierten Parkett der Politik und auf dem fleckigen Wirtshaustisch der persönlichen Intrige. Es ist trotzdem erlaubt zu hoffen, dass sich Numismatiker im (wenn auch nur hilfs-) wissenschaftlichen Dialog Derartiges kneifen können.

PALAEOLOGAN GOLD COINS FROM THE MINT OF THESSALONICA

Simon Bendall

It has long been realised that there exists many varieties of the hyperpyra of the Palaeologan period. Their basic design is usually the same, depicting a half-length figure of the Virgin *orans* amidst the walls of Constantinople.

The variations take the form of *sigla* or secret marks which are more extensive than is possibly realised. In 1961 Veglery and Zacos recorded 15 sets of *sigla* for Andronicus II and Michael IX (A.D. 1295–1320)¹, while by 1974 Dr. P. Protonotarios knew of 65 sets

¹ A. Veglery and G. Zacos, «The Coins of Andronicus II» with the inscription «Emperors of the Romans», Numismatic Circular, Vol. LXIX, No. 6, June 1961, pp. 134–135.

of *sigla* for this reign². Also in 1974³ Veglery and Millas recorded a total of 27 sets of *sigla* for the reign of Andronicus II (A.D. 1282–1295).

At the time of writing the author has records of 70 sets for Andronicus II and 114 for Andronicus II and Michael IX. Protonotarios⁴, followed by D.M. Metcalf⁵, suggested that the *sigla* were changed 3 or even 4 times a year and this theory does seem probable. There is no doubt that more *sigla* remain to be discovered, judging by a recent hoard of Palaeologan hyperpera⁶. This hoard contained 27 hyperpera of Andronicus II bearing 19 different *sigla* of which no fewer than 14 were new to the author and, although the hoard ended with just 19 coins of the earliest issues of Andronicus II and Michael IX bearing 13 different *sigla*, 3 of these appeared to be unrecorded.

As it now appears certain that the hyperpera of Andronicus II and Michael IX were issued for 30 years up to 1325 and that the statistical evidence seems to indicate that for the period 1282–1325 the number of *sigla* will certainly exceed the number of four per year, we must search for an alternative model. The author believes this alternative to be a mint or mints other than Constantinople which from time to time issued gold coins.

In recording the great variety of *sigla* for this period the author has segregated a group of coins which seem to show every sign of having been produced in Thessalonica.

Group I

The first group of coins was certainly issued early in the joint reign of Andronicus II and Michael IX, for they all have six groups of towers on the reverse. Also, several coins of this group were present in the Palaeologan hoard. Stylistically, they are very different from the Constantinopolitan hyperpyra (fig. 1). The rendering of the portraits (fig. 4b), especially that of Andronicus II, is typical of Thessalonican copper coinage (fig. 2). Three issues bear *sigla* on the obverse, a feature virtually unknown on the Constantinopolitan coinage. The figure of Christ is rather slender with (where the coin is well-struck and legible) his feet depicted prominently. On Constantinopolitan hyperpera Christ's colobion usually descends to the border of the coin, hiding his feet, while often on the earliest issues Christ stands on a dais. The lower part of the legs of the two emperors are usually rendered in a prominent manner so that it is quite obvious that the emperors are kneeling which is often not the case on the Constantinopolitan coins. The lettering is typically Thessalonican, small and chunky in form and, except for one issue, the legend is circular. At Constantinople during this early period in the joint reign the legend is columnar. Finally, it should be noted that the *sigla* on the reverse are placed outside the walls, unlike those on the Constantinopolitan coinage.

- 1 Obverse: CK between three figures.
Reverse: No *sigla*.
Reference: a) Barber Institute (fig. 3).

² P. Protonotarios, «Is a reattribution of the hyperpyron of the «Proskynesis» type justified?», Numismatic Circular, Vol. LXXXII, Nos. 7–8, July-Aug. 1974, pp. 283–285.

³ A. Veglery and A. Millas, «Gold coins from Andronicus III (1328–1341)», Numismatic Circular, Vol. LXXXII, Nos. 1 and 2, Jan., Feb., 1974, pp. 4–7 and 50–51.

⁴ P. Protonotarios, op. cit. p. 284.

⁵ D.M. Metcalf, «Coinage in South-Eastern Europe, 820–1396». Royal Numismatic Society, special publication, No. 11, London 1979.

⁶ Publication forthcoming in Numismatic Chronicle 1982.

- 2 Obverse: CK between three figures.
Reverse: K outside the walls at 3 o'clock.
Reference: a) Bonham's Auction III, 3/12/80, Lot 401 (fig. 4a and 4b).
Note: Struck from the same obverse die as No. 1. A die flaw in the letters $\overline{\text{IC}}$ shows that this striking succeeds the previous one.
- 3 Obverse: Pellets between the three figures.
Reverse: X K outside walls at 3 o'clock (90°) and 9 o'clock (270°).
Reference: a) Private Coll., b) hoard addendum and c) Barber Institute (fig. 5).
- 4 Obverse: No *sigla*.
Reverse: K outside walls at 3 o'clock (90°).
Reference: a) BMC 14; b) Private Coll. (fig. 6).
- 5 Obverse: No *sigla*.
Reverse: K K outside walls at 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock (90° and 270°).
Reference: a) Palaeologan hoard (fig. 7); b) Private Coll.; c) Barber Institute; d) Palaeologan hoard.
- 6 Obverse: No *sigla*, columnar or circular legend.
Reverse: No *sigla*.
Reference: a) Private Coll. (fig. 8b, c), hoard addendum.

Group II

The coins in this group are later, characterized by having only four groups of towers in the walls. Although the style is still Thessalonican it is rather cruder. While on most of the issues the *sigla* are within the walls, the groups are linked by a coin (fig. 9) which does have the *sigla* still outside the walls. The figure of Christ is still slender with prominent feet where visible. Andronicus II's portrait is still Thessalonican in style and the lettering is small and chunky, although the legend changes from circular to columnar within this group. No obverse *sigla* have been found in coins of this group. Certain coins in this group (9c, 10a, c; 13c, d, g) show each emperor wearing a panelled *loros*, a feature that does not appear on Constantinopolitan hyperpera.

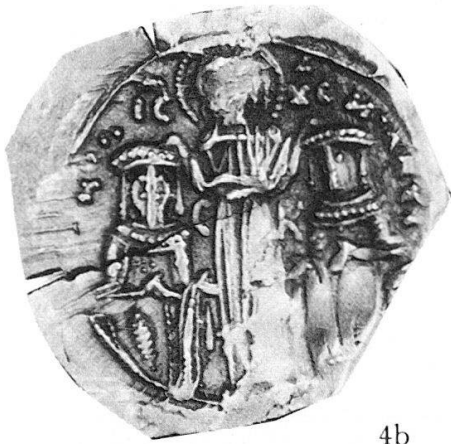
- 7 Obverse: Circular legend.
Reverse: K [Λ] on walls at 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock (100° and 260°).
Reference: Private Coll. (fig. 9).
- 8 Obverse: Circular legend.
Reverse: K Λ above walls at 1 o'clock and 11 o'clock (20° and 340°).
Reference: Private Coll. (fig. 10).
- 9 Obverse: a) and b) columnar inscription; c) circular legend.
Reverse: K Λ within walls.
Reference: a) DO (fig. 11); b) DO; c) Barber Institute (fig. 12).
Note: Coin 9a is linked by its obverse die with coin 11a and by the progression of a die flaw at 2 o'clock (30°) it can clearly be seen that type 9 precedes type 11. On variety c) the emperors have panelled *loros*.



1



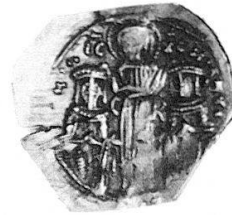
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4b



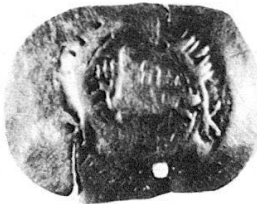
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4a



5



6



7



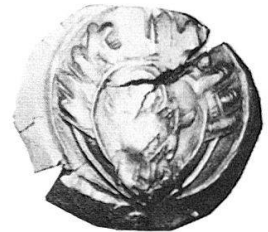
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9



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11



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16



17



18

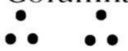





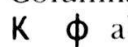



19



20





- 10 Obverse: Columnar inscription.
Reverse:  above walls.
 within walls.
Reference: DO (fig. 13).
Note: This coin shows the emperor with panelled loros. See note above (9) for die linkage.
- 11 Obverse: Columnar inscription.
Reverse:  above walls.
 within walls.
Reference: a) Private Coll. (fig. 14); b) Kress Sale 133 (1965), lot 3357 (fig. 15).
Note: It is possible that this variety is a reverse mule of types 9 and 10.
- 12 Obverse: Columnar inscription; emperors wear panelled loros.
Reverse:  above walls.
 within walls.
Reference: a) Barber (fig. 16); b) Private Coll.; c) Peus Auction 279 (1972), lot 480.
Note: All three specimens share the same obverse die and a) and b) share the same reverse die also.
- 13 Obverse: Columnar inscription.
Reverse:  above walls.
 within walls.
Reference: a)–h) DO (fig. 17).
Note: On coins c), d) and g) the emperors wear panelled loros.

Andronicus II (A.D. 1282–1295)

If the attribution to Thessalonica of the thirteen varieties described above is accepted, then there are a further three issues of Andronicus II's sole reign which are linked together by their style, unusual legends, die links, and *sigla* to such an extent that they must also be products of the mint of Thessalonica. All bear the fullest legend of Andronicus II: – **ΑΝΔΡΟΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΝΧΩΡΟ ΤΟ ΘΩΠΙΤΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥ ΚΑΙ ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤ ΚΟΜΗΝΟCΟΠΑΛΟΛ** and there appears to be only one obverse die so that all the reverse varieties are thus linked.

These coins must be early in the reign for the emperor is not nimbate. The letters are small and chunky unlike the early lettering at Constantinople, which is large and neat with prominent serifs.

- 14 Reverse:  outside walls at 11 o'clock (350°).
Reference: Ashmolean (Goodacre Coll.) (fig. 18).
- 15 Reverse:  outside walls at 1 o'clock and 11 o'clock (10° and 350°).
Reference: BM (fig. 19).
- 16 Reverse: .No sigla.
Reference: a) Bank Leu Auction 13 (1975), lot 757 (fig. 20); b) Private Coll.
Note: Coins 16a and b originate from the same collection and, considering the rarity of the coin, may therefore have been acquired together. The-

re are die flaws between the second N of **KOMHNOC** and Christ's Colobion and between the A of **ANAPONIKOC** and the border of the coin at 11 o'clock (350°) present in types 15 and 16 but absent in type 14. These seem to dictate the order of issue of these three types in the sequence they are presented here.

At the present time there appear to be no hyperpyra of either Michael VIII or Andronicus II and III that can be assigned to the mint of Thessalonica.

If they appear the author feels it is likely that those of Michael VIII will be obviously different from Constantinople by their style but that those of Andronicus II and III, due to poor engraving and striking, will be harder to recognize from style alone. They may however be linked by the form of their sigla to the issues of Andronicus II and Michael IX described above.

None of the coins published above is new – they have all been in various collections for a number of years. Although new discoveries are made frequently, the fact that there are at present no contenders for the Thessalonican hyperpyra of Michael VIII or Andronicus II and III seems strong indication that they were not struck in these reigns.

Acknowledgements

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NEKROLOG – NÉCROLOGIE



Karel Castelin 1903–1981

Als Karel Castelin am 14. August 1981 starb, ging ein langes, fruchtbares Leben zu Ende, das in der Numismatik seine Erfüllung fand, obwohl oder gerade weil sie neben Familie und Beruf Liebhaberei, Nebenbeschäftigung blieb. Am 2. Mai 1903 in Dubá geboren, entstammte Castelin einer österreichischen Beamtenfamilie – sein Vater, Dr. Benno Castelin, war Jurist. Die Numismatik faszinierte ihn seit seiner Jugend, zunächst als Sammler, später dann vor allem als Wissenschaftler und Forscher. Sein Beruf hingegen führte ihn schon früh ins grosse Stahlwerk von Kladno bei Prag, wo er bis zur Pensionierung vor elf Jahren als Planungsbeamter in leitender Stellung tätig war. Neben der täglichen Berufstätigkeit promovierte er an der Karls-Universität in Prag in Alter Geschichte, Archäologie und Numismatik mit einer Arbeit, die wegen der politischen Umstände erst viel später unter dem Titel «The Coinage of Rhessaena in Mesopotamia» von Alfred R. Bellinger 1946 in den *Numismatic Notes and Monographs* (Nr. 108) herausgegeben werden konnte. Der Zweite Weltkrieg brachte auch in persönlicher Hinsicht eine brutale Zäsur. Freiwillig begleitete er seine jüdische Frau und seine Tochter ins