

Zeitschrift: Schweizer Münzblätter = Gazette numismatique suisse = Gazzetta numismatica svizzera

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Numismatische Gesellschaft

Band: 33-37 (1983-1987)

Heft: 133

Artikel: "Perperi di Filadelfe"

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-171328>

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Die Rs.-Legende OMHPOΣ kommt bei Homonoia-Münzen sonst nicht vor; sie ersetzt das übliche OMONOIA und ist wohl in dem Sinn «Sicherheit, Pfand» zu interpretieren⁷, was auf eine zwischen beiden Städten getroffene Vereinbarung hinweist, die durch Eid bekräftigt wurde.

Heyman missdeutete diese Stücke völlig; er erkannte nicht, dass es sich hier um eine Homonoia-Prägung handelt, indem er das Ethnikon von Laodikeia übersah, und machte dann aufgrund des OMHPOΣ die beiden übrigens völlig identischen Demoi auf der Rs. zu Statuen des Homer und einer Muse. Die letzten Zweifel nimmt die gleichzeitige Münze von Laodikeia SNG von Aulock 3876, die auf der Vs. die Büsten der beiden Demoi von Laodikeia und Smyrna mit darauf hinweisender Legende zeigt. – Heymans Spekulationen, dieser Münztyp könne in Verbindung stehen mit Neros poetischen Neigungen oder seinem Auftrag an Nonnos Dionysios, die «Taten der Römer» in einem riesigen Epos zu beschreiben, werden damit gegenstandslos.

⁷ Liddell-Scott, Greek-English Lexicon S. 1221, s.v. ὄμηρος. Häufig sind die Formulierungen ὄμηρους λαμβάνειν, διδόναι, ἔχειν.

«PERPERI DI FILADELFE»

Simon Bendall

Pegolotti, in his book «La Practica della Mercatura»¹, lists the coins circulating in the late 13th and early 14th centuries and makes reference to «perperi di Filadelfe». These «perperi», having a purity of only 12 carats, would presumably be of the reign of Andronicus II and Michael IX, and a case can be made out for them being the issues bearing the sigla ΦΔ.

It is scarcely likely that Pegolotti could be referring to coins which were popularly identified as «Philadelphian», through some folk memory of earlier coins struck in that city. Presumably «Perperi di Filadelfe» must have had a basis in fact. Philadelphia, lying some 30 miles east of Sardes and 85 miles east of Smyrna in Western Asia Minor, was, in Palaeologan times, the most easterly Byzantine possession and could well have produced its own coinage, as Trebizond had done in the times of Alexius I² and Isaac II³.

The author would like to present a small series of coins of Michael VIII and to suggest that these were struck in Philadelphia. This series consists of a full range of denominations linked by sigla, it being assumed that coins in different metals but bearing the same sigla are more or less contemporary in date.

There are two types of billon trachea, one silver trachy, and seven varieties of hyperpyra which are listed below:

¹ Francesco Balducci Pegolotti, *La Practica della Mercatura*, ed. Allan Evans, Cambridge Mass. 1936; Kraus Reprint, New York 1970, p. 289.

² S. Bendall, *The Mint of Trebizond under Alexius I and the Gabrades*, NC 1977, pp. 126–136.

³ S. Bendall, *The Coinage of Trebizond under Isaac II (AD 1185–1195)*, ANS MN 24 (1979), pp. 213–216.

Billon trachea

- 1 Obv. ΦΛ – Δ Φ – Π – € in angles of cross.
Rev. X O
M ΠΑ
ΔΣC ΛΣ
ΠOT

Michael standing holding labarum-headed sceptre and globus surmounted by patriarchal cross.

- Ref. B. & D. C. 26⁴.
(Pl. 1, 1 a-c)

- 2 Obv. Φ – Λ – Δ – Φ in angles of cross.
Rev. As No. 1 but sigla Π (€) below legend.
Ref. B. & D. C. 27.
(Pl. 1, 2a-b).

Silver trachy

- 3 As No. 2 but without sigla on reverse.
Ref. Vienna 296⁵.
(Pl. 2, 3).

Gold hyperpyra

Obv. Virgin *orans* within walls; sigla in field.

Rev. Michael kneeling before seated Christ, supported by St. Michael; sigla in field.

- 4 Obv. Sigla Π€
Rev. Sigla Π
Π
€
a) Palaeologan Hoard 49⁶.
b) Swiss Bank Corporation Spring 1976, List No. 135.
c) Palaeologan Hoard 51.
d) Palaeologan Hoard 50.
(Pl. 1, 4 a-d).

- 5 Obv. Sigla €Π
Rev. Sigla Π
Π
€

⁴ S. Bendall and P. J. Donald, *The Billon Trachea of Michael VIII Palaeologos (1258-1282)*, London 1974.

⁵ Henry Longuet, *Die unedierten byzantinischen Münzen des Wiener Kabinettes*, NZ 1957, p. 49.

⁶ S. Bendall, *An early Palaeologan gold Hoard*, NC 1982, pp. 66-82.

- a) Leu Auction No. 13 (1975), Lot 755.
- b) Swiss Bank Corporation (Zurich), Auction 2 (1977), Lot 636.
(Pl. 1, 5a-b).

6 Obv. Sigla Π€
Rev. Sigla ∴

∴

Π

- a) Private Collection.
- b) Palaeologan Hoard 47.
- c) Palaeologan Hoard 46.
- d) Trade.
- e) Palaeologan Hoard 45.
- f) (Pl. 1, 6a; 2, 6b-f).

7 Obv. Sigla €Π
Rev. Sigla ∴

∴

Π

- a) Trade.
(Pl. 2, 7 a).

8 Obv. Sigla ∴ €
Rev. Sigla ∴

∴

Π

- a) Journal of Numismatic Fine Arts, Vol. 3, No. 1, Summer 1974, G. 98.
(Pl. 2, 8 a).

9 Obv. Sigla Π ∴
Rev. Sigla ∴

Π ∴

Π ∴

- a) Private Collection.
(Pl. 2, 9 a).

Die-Links hyperpyra

Obv. 4 a b c d 5 a b 6 a b c d e 7 a 8 a 9 a
Rev. a b c d e

Many of the gold coins bear the letters Π€ (or €Π) as sigla, and clearly these same sigla appear below the horizontal line of the cross on the obverse of the first billon type. The second type of billon trachy possibly has the same sigla on the reverse. Certainly a large Π, not part of the imperial name and titles, appears in the lower left reverse field. The author has seen no specimen sufficiently well-preserved to determine whether or not the corresponding € appears in the lower right field, although such placement can reasonably be expected. Thus we are left with the four letters ΦΛΔΦ as part of the design of the obverse. It is possible that these are the initial letters of the words of a phrase referring to the cross, but it is difficult to determine what such a phrase might



1a



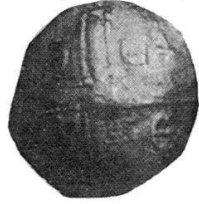
1b



1c



2a



2b



4a



4b



4c



4d



5a



5b



6a





6b



6c



6d



6e



6f



7a



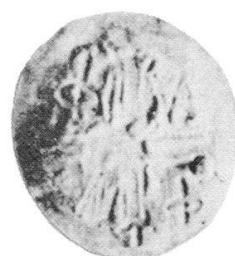
8a



9a



3



be. The letters are more probably a contraction of the city name Philadelphia. These two types of billon trachea are very rare, and by far the most badly engraved and produced of all Michael VIII's many types. The silver trachy, possibly of base silver, is unique.

The designs of the silver and billon trachea were changed annually and, therefore, have a period of issue of no more than two years covered by this billon coinage. The sigla on the hyperpyra, however, are so numerous that they must have been changed every three or four months. Two years would, therefore, produce six or eight sigla variations. The hyperpyra considered here have seven variations which correspond well with the billon issues.

The hyperpyra are issues from the second half of Michael's reign, since Christ is shown on the reverse holding the Gospels rather than a scroll, while the size and style of the coins testify also to a date in the second half of the reign. The billon trachea are likewise late issues in the reign. Two features make this gold coinage anomalous to other Constantinopolitan gold issues. Firstly, the appearance of sigla on both the obverse and the reverse of the coin. Michael's earliest hyperpyra on wide-spread flans often had sigla on the reverse only. By the half-way point of his reign, c. 1270, the sigla were firmly established on the obverse only. In fact, these issues are the only ones in the group, showing Christ with Gospels, to have sigla on the reverse. Secondly, die identities within the groups and die-linkage between groups four and five and six and seven are very unusual amongst Michael's many hyperpyra varieties. This phenomenon can only be matched in a similar series of hyperpyra struck in another provincial mint – those of Thessalonica issued under Andronicus II.

The combination of all these different factors in a coinage of three metals is sufficient evidence to attribute the coins described here, to the mint of Philadelphia and to confirm the existence of «Perperi di Filadelfe».

EINE SAMMLUNG VON SCHWEIZER MÜNZEN IM FINNISCHEN NATIONALMUSEUM IN HELSINKI

Tuukka Talvio und Hans Voegtli

In den Jahren 1864 und 1867 erhielt das Münzkabinett der Universität von Helsinki in zwei Lieferungen eine wertvolle Sammlung, die zum grössten Teil aus mitteleuropäischen Münzen und Medaillen bestand. Die ganz unerwartete Schenkung kam von dem kurländischen Kammerherr Baron Alexander Bathor Simolin (1800–1871), der nach seinen eigenen Worten seine alte Heimat beschenken wollte. Er war nämlich in dritter Generation Abkömmling eines finnischen Pfarrers in Reval, und sowohl sein Grossvater als auch ein Grossonkel, die als erfolgreiche Diplomaten baronisiert worden waren, hatten in ihrer Jugend an der finnischen Universität studiert¹.

¹ Vgl. W. Lagus, *Numismatiska anteckningar* I, 2 (1888), 88–91. Die als Fiktion schon längst verworfene Idee, dass die Familie Simolin aus Simony in Ungarn stammt und ein Zweig des Hauses Bathory sei, soll hier nicht wieder aufgenommen werden. Auf eine andere Weise ist der Name Simolin aber doch mit Fürstlichkeiten verknüpft: Johann Matthias Simolin, Grossonkel des Schenkers, war als russischer Botschafter 1791 an der Vorbereitung der Flucht des französischen Königspaares beteiligt.