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A GROUP OF BYZANTINE COINS FROM LEBANON

The author of this article has purchased a group of 44 coins in March 1991 in Cambridge, Great Britain. When bought, the coins were very corroded and covered with grey patination. External observations suggested that they might have come from a single place (a hoard). The seller pointed out Lebanon as place of origin, although it is also possible that they came from Syria and traveled to the U.K. through Lebanon.

Most of the coins were chemically cleaned (by the author) what enabled their examination and classification. The coins were divided into two groups: the first – earlier group, containing 36 coins and the second – later one, with seven Byzantine coins and one Islamic, originated from eastern Anatolia.

The first group contains mainly large, bronze follises of Anastasius I, Justin I, Justinian I, Justin II, Maurice Tiberius, Phocas and Heraclius with Heraclius Constantine. The earliest objects from the reign of

Anastasius I, were struck after the monetary reform, carried out in the year 498 A.D., while the latest object is, the only one in this group, reduced follis of Heraclius, dated to 631–632 A.D. An only exception among the coins of the first group is a half-follis of Justin II, struck in 567–568 in Nicomedia. The most important role among the mints plays Constantinople, particularly among the earliest and the latest coins. Nicomedia and Antioch also appear. Antioch (Antiochia), the capital of Syria, was renamed Theoupolis after the disastrous earthquake, which ruined the city on November 29th 528 A.D. The first group seems to be a typical hoard (or its part) of Byzantine coins from the end of the 5th to the first half of the 7th century A.D.

The second group contains seven Byzantine follises from 11th century and the Islamic coin from the first half of the 13th century. Among the follises there is a coin of Constantine X Ducas and anonymous follises class A3, B, C and G, which are attributed to different rulers of the 11th century. The Islamic coin belongs probably (the legend is not visible) to the Ayyoobeed coinage of El-Ashraf struck in Mayyafarikeen in eastern Anatolia (west from the lake Van and NE from Diyarbakir) between 1210 and 1230 A.D. It is possible that some of the coins from this group originally formed a part of a hoard and were added later to the first group. The coexistence of 11th century Byzantine coins with the later 12th and 13th century Islamic coins has been proved in literature. A hoard of a thousand coins from Raqqa contained 880 Islamic coins with figural images from the 12th century and 120 Byzantine objects from the 10th to the beginning of the 12th century (Mitchell Brown 1974, page 355). Certain differences in the appearance of the coins from the second group give a base for stating that this is a not homogeneous group.

Summing up the whole discussion it is necessary to state that the coins of the first group most likely belonged to the same hoard and the other objects from the second one were added to it later.

ABBREVIATIONS

BMC – Wroth W., Catalogue of the Imperial Byzantine Coins in the British Museum, 1966 reprint of the 1908 original.

BN – Morrisson, C., Catalogue des monnaies byzantines de la Bibliothèque Nationale; Vol. I. Anastasius I – Justinian II, 1970; Vol. II. Philippicus-Alexius III, 1970.

DO – Bellinger A.R., and Grierson P., Catalogue of Byzantine Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection and in the Whittemore Collection; Vol. I. Anastasius I – Maurice, by A. R. Bellinger, 1966; Vol. II Phocas – Theodosius III, By P.Grierson, in two Parts, 1968; Vol. III. Leo III-Nicephorus II, by Grierson, in two Parts, 1973.

MIB – Hahn W., *Moneta Imperii Byzantini*; Vol. I. Anastasius I – Justinian I, 1973; Vol. II. Justin II – Phocas 1975; Vol. III. Heraclius – Leo III, 1981.

S – Sear D. R., *Byzantine Coins and their Values*, second edition, 1987.

Poole – Poole S. L., *The Coinage of Egypt: (A.H. 358–922) under the Fâtîmee Khaleefehs, the Ayyoobees, and the Memlook Sultans*; Catalogue of Oriental Coins in the British Museum, Vol. IV, 1879.

Mitchell Brown – Mitchell Brown H., *Some Reflections on the Figured Coinage of the Artuqids and Zengids*, pp. 353–358; (in) *Near Eastern Numismatics, Iconography, Epigraphy and History. Studies in Honor of George C. Miles*, American University of Beirut, 1974.

CATALOGUE

Group I (498–631/2)

ANASTASIUS I (11 April 491 – 1 July 518)

Post-reform copper coinage, A.D. 498–518;

1. AE, follis, small module, Constantinople, 498–c.512.

Obv. DN ANASTA–SIVS PP AVG. Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.

Rev. Large M; above, cross; in exergue, CON.

Ø 24,3–24,7 mm; 10,26 g; 180°; green and gray patina;

BMC 41; BN 11–22; DO 16; MIB 22; S 14.

2. AE follis, large module, Constantinople, c. 512–518.

Obv. DN ANASTA–SIVS PP AVG. Diademed, draped and cuirased Bust right, with star on shoulder.

Rev. Large M between two stars; above, cross; beneath, officina letter A; in exergue, CON.

Ø 31,8–32,2 mm; 10,50 g; 200°; chemically cleaned;

BMC 18–29; BN 52–81; DO 23a–k; MIB 27; S 19.

3. As last.

Obv. [DN ANAST]A–SIVS PP [AVG]. Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.

Rev. Large M; to left, nothing visible; to right star; above, cross; beneath, officina letter E; in exergue, CON.

Ø 27,3–31,3 mm; 12,60 g; 225°, chemically cleaned;
BMC 18–29; BN 52–81; DO 23a–k; MIB 27; S 19.

JUSTIN I (10 July 518 – 1 August 527)

4. AE, follis, Constantinople, 518–527.

Obv. DN [IVSTI]–NVS PP AV. Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right, with star on shoulder.

Rev. Large M between star (left) and cross (right); above cross; beneath, officina letter B; in exergue, CON.

Ø 30,3–31,0 mm; 16,06 g; 180°; chemically cleaned;
BMC 29–32; BN 11–17; DO 9, 10; MIB 12, 16; S 63.

5. As last.

Obv. DN IVS[TI]–NVS PP AV[G?]. Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.

Rev. Large M between star (left) and cross (right); above, cross; beneath, officina letter Δ; in exergue, C[ON].

Ø 26,7–30,0 mm; 7,92 g; 180°; chemically cleaned;
BMC 29–32; BN 11–17; DO 9, 10; MIB 12, 16; S 63.

6. As last.

Obv. [DN] IVSTI–NVS PP [AVG]. As last.

Rev. Large M between two stars; above, cross; beneath, officina letter B; in exergue, CON.

Ø 29,5–29,6 mm; 16,23 g; 180°; chemically cleaned.
BMC 20–28; BN 1–9; DO 8; MIB 11; S 62.

7. As last.

Obv. [DN IVSTI]–NVS PP AVG. As last.

Rev. As last, but officina letter Ε.

Ø 29,4–29,8 mm; 17,08 g; 180°; chemically cleaned.
BMC 20–28; BN 1–9; DO 8; MIB 11; S 62.

8. As last.

Obv. DN IVSTI–NVS PP AVG. As last.

Rev. As last, officina letter Ε or B.

Ø 29,2–31,9 mm; 14,28 g; 180°; chemically cleaned.
BMC 20–28; BN 1–9; DO 8; MIB 11; S 62.

9. As last.

Obv. DN IVSTI–[NVS PP AVG]. As last.

Rev. As last, officina letter Ε; in exergue, [CO]N.

Ø 31,3–31,5 mm; 10,90 g; 30°; dark patina and green corrosion.
BMC 20–28; BN 1–9; DO 8; MIB 11; S 62.

10. As last, but mint unknown (Constantinople?).

Obv. DN I[VSTI]–NVS PP AVG. As last.

Rev. As last, officina letter ϵ ; in exergue, nothing visible.

$\varnothing$ 32,4–33,5 mm; 17,63 g; 180°; chemically cleaned.

BMC 20–28; BN 1–9; DO 8; MIB 11; S 62.

11. AE, follis, Antioch (Syria), 518–527.

Obv. DN IVSTI–NVS P[P AVG]. Diademed, draped and cuirassed, bust right.

Rev. Large M between two crosses; above, cross; beneath, officina letter invisible; in exergue, ANT χ .

$\varnothing$ 34,2–35,0 mm; 15,18 g; 180°; chemically cleaned.

BMC 67, 68; BN 1,2; DO 45,46; MIB 58; S 100.

12. As last, but mint unknown.

Obv. DN IVSTI–NVS PP A[VG]. As last.

Rev. Large M; above, cross; other details invisible.

$\varnothing$ 26,4–31,4 mm; 16,40 g; 330°; light green patina.

13. As last; mint unknown.

Obv. DN IVSTI–[NVS] PP AVG. As last.

Rev. Large M; officina letter ϵ ?; Other details invisible.

$\varnothing$ 28,4–29,6 mm; 13,30 g; 0°; chemically cleaned.

JUSTINIAN I (1 August 527 – 14 November 565).

14. AE follis, Constantinople, 527–538/9.

Obv. DN IVSTINI–ANVS PP AVG. Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right.

Rev. Large M between star (left) and cross (right); above, cross; beneath, officina letter B; in exergue, CON.

$\varnothing$ 28,3–28,5 mm; 15,88 g; 150°; dark patina.

BMC 28–32; BN 4–6, 8–11; DO 28; MIB 84; S 158.

15. As last.

Obv. DN IVSTINI–ANVS PP AVG. As last.

Rev. Large M; to left, star; to right, nothing visible; above, cross; beneath, officina letter: invisible; in exergue, CON.

$\varnothing$ 26,9–30,5 mm; 14,63 g; 200°; chemically cleaned.

BMC 28–32; BN 4–6, 8–11; DO 28; MIB 84; S 158.

16. As last.

Obv. DN IVSTINI–[ANVS PP AVG]. As last.

Rev. Large M; to left, star; to right, nothing visible; above, cross; beneath, officina letter: invisible; in exergue, C[ON].

Ø 28,6–29,3 mm; 14,00 g; 180°; chemically cleaned;
BMC 28–32; BN 4–6, 8–11; DO 28; MIB 84; S 158.

17. AE follis, Antioch, 527 – just after 29 November 528.

Obv. DN IVSTINI–ANVS PP AVG. As last.

Rev. Large M between two stars; above, cross; beneath, officina letter: invisible; in exergue, [ANTI]X.

Ø 29,7–29,8 mm; 13,78 g; 180°; chemically cleaned.

BMC 265; BN 11; DO 202; MIB 125; S 213.

18. AE follis, mint unknown, 527–538/9.

Obv. DN IVSTINI–[ANVS P]P AVG. As last.

Rev. Large M between two stars; above, cross; beneath, officina letter A; in exergue nothing visible.

Ø 27,5–30,4 mm; 14,00 g; 150°; chemically cleaned.

19. As last.

Obv. DN IVSTINI–ANVS P AVG (only P). As last.

Rev. Large M between two crosses; other details: invisible.

Ø 29,9–30,8 mm; 16,15 g; 180°; chemically cleaned.

JUSTIN II (15 November 565 – 5 October 578)

20. AE follis, Constantinople (?), 570/1.

Obv. DN IVSTI–NVS [PP AVG]. Justin, on left, and Sophia, on right, seated facing on double throne, both nimbate; he holds globus cruciger (orb), she holds cruciform sceptre.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and numerals representing the regnal year: V (=6); above, cross; beneath, officina letter D; in exergue, CON(?).

Ø 27,6–30,0 mm; 11,53 g; 0°; chemically cleaned.

BMC 28–81; BN 1–43; DO 22–43; MIB 43; S 360.

21. AE, follis, Constantinople, 573/4.

Obv. DN IVSTI–[NVS] PP AVG. As last.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year SI/II (=9); above, cross; beneath, officina letter A; in exergue, CON.

Ø 30,1–31,3 mm; 12,48 g; 180°; light green and gray patina.

BMC 28–81; BN 1–43; DO 22–43; MIB 43; S 360.

22. AE, follis, Nicomedia, 569/70.

Obv. DN IVSTI–[NVS PP AVG]. As last.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year V (=5); above, cross; beneath, officina letter B; in exergue, NIKO.

Ø 30,0–31,4 mm; 11,35 g; 30°; chemically cleaned.
BMC 127–159; BN 1–35; DO 92–103; MIB 46a, b; S 369.

23. As last, but 575/6.

Obv. [DN IVSTI]–NVS PP AVG. As last.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year XI (=11); above, cross; beneath, officina letter B; in exergue, NIKO.

Ø 27,4–29,0 mm; 10,35 g; 0°; chemically cleaned.

BMC 127–159; BN 1–35; DO 92–103; MIB 46a, b; S 369.

24. AE, follis, Theoupolis (=Antioch-renamed after a great earthquake on 29 November 528), 572/3.

Obv. Legend unintelligible: VNTVA–DΓATΛ. Justin, on left, and Sophia, on right, seated facing on double throne, both nimbate; they hold between them glob surmounted by large cross, and each holds long sceptre.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year 4/III (=8); above, cross; beneath, officina letter Γ; in exergue ΤΗΕ4Ρ'.

Ø 28,9 mm; 11,63 g; 180°; chemically cleaned.

BMC 193–212; BN 1–21; DO 150–160; MIB 56, 57; S 379.

25. AE, half follis, Nicomedia, 567/8.

Obv. [DN IVSTI]–NVS PP AV[G]. Justin, on left, and Sophia, on right, seated facing on double throne, both nimbate, he holds globus cruciger (orb), she holds cruciform sceptre.

Rev. Large K between A/N/N/O and regnal year II/I (=3); above, cross; beneath, NI.

Ø 19,8–20,0 mm; 5,56 g; 200°; chemically cleaned.

BMC 160–166; BN 36–40; DO 104–115; MIB 47a, b; S 370.

MAURICE TIBERIUS (13 August 582 – 22 November 602).

26. AE, follis, Constantinople, 595/6.

Obv. [DN MAVRC Tib€ R PP] AVG (or similar). Helmeted and cuirassed bust facing, holding globus cruciger (orb) and shield.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year X/II/II (=14); above, cross; beneath, officina letter Γ; in exergue, CON.

Ø 25,5–28,7 mm; 11,58 g; 30°; dark patina and green corrosion.

BMC 31–66; BN 6–33; DO 26–43; MIB 65D, 66D, 67D; S 494.

27. AE, follis, Theoupolis (Antioch). 583/4.

Obv. Legend – a badly blundered form of the inscription of Tiberius II: ΠΤΕΣΙΒΙ... ΤΑΠΠΙ. Bust facing, wearing crown with trefoil ornament, and consular robes; in right hand, mappa; in l., eagle-tipped sceptre.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year II (=2); above, cross; in exergue, ΤΗΕ4Ρ'.

Ø 27,7–29,6 mm; 11,17 g; 180⁰; chemically cleaned.
BMC (Tiberius II) 80–86, 89–93, 97–100, 102–105; BN 1–24; DO 152–160; MIB 95; S 532.

28. As last, but 595/6.

Obv. [dN MA4TI CN P] A4T (or similar). As last.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year X/III (=14); above, cross; beneath, officina letter Γ; in exergue, TH4P.

Ø 26,7–28,7 mm; 8,06 g; 200⁰; chemically cleaned.

BMC 167–198; BN 25–56; DO 161–173; MIB 96A, 96C; S 533.

PHOCAS (23 November 602 – 5 October 610).

29. AE, follis, mint unknown (probably Constantinople), 608/9.

Obv. [...FOCAS] P4 RP AVG. Crowned bust facing, wearing consular robes, and holding mappa and cross.

Rev. Large XXXX; above, ANNO; to right, regnal year SI (=7); in exergue, nothing visible.

Ø 28,6–33,0 mm; 12,63 g; 200⁰; green and gray patina and corrosion;

BMC 40–47; BN 3–13; DO 26–32; MIB 61a–e, 62; S 64 (mint of Constantinople).

HERACLIUS (5 October 610 – 11 January 641).

Associate emperor: Heraclius Constantine, Augustus from 22 January 613.

30. Ae, follis, Constantinople, 610/11 (?).

Obv. dN hRACLIUS P4 RP AVG. Cuirassed, bust facing, bearded, wearing crown and holding globus cruciger (orb) and shield.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year I; above, cross; beneath officina letter Γ; in exergue, CON.

Ø 23,6–29,4 mm; 10,91 g; 200⁰; dark patina, chemically cleaned.

BMC 109–115; BN 1–9; DO 69–71; MIB 158; S 804.

31. AE, follis, Constantinople (?), 613 (?)

Obv. Legend worn off – originally: dd NN h4 RACLI4S 4T h4 RA CONST PPA (or similar). Heraclius, bearded (on l.) and Heraclius Constantine (on r.) standing facing, each wearing crown and chlamys, and holding globus cruciger (orb) in r. hand; between their heads, cross.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year II/I (?) (=3); above, cross beneath, officina letter 4; in exergue, nothing visible.

Ø 27,7–28,2 mm; 10,94 g; 300⁰; chemically cleaned;

ref. – mint of Constantinople BMC 116–144; BN 10–44; DO 76–83; MIB 159, 160; S. 805.

32. AE, follis, mint unknown (Constantinople?), 613/14.

Obv. As last.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year II/II (=4); above, cross; beneath, officina letter A; in exergue, mint mark invisible due to overstriking (perhaps originally CON).

Ø 30,2–31,7 mm; 8,33 g; 200⁰; dark patina;

ref. – mint of Constantinople BMC 116–144; BN 10–44; DO 76–83; MIB 159, 160; S. 805.

33. AE, follis, mint unknown, 613–616 (?).

Obv. As last.

Rev. Large M; other details – invisible.

Ø 29,3–32,2 mm; 13,43 g; 150⁰ (?); dark patina and green corrosion.

34. AE, follis, Constantinople, 629/30.

Obv. No legend. Heraclius (on l.) and Heraclius Constantine (on r.) standing facing, cross between their heads; Heraclius wears crown and military dress, holds long cross, and has moustache and long beard; his son, with short beard, wears crown and chlamys, and holds globus cruciger (orb).

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year X/X (=20); above, cross; beneath, officina letter A(?); in exergue, CON.

Ø 28,0–30,2 mm; 11,37 g; 180⁰; green patina and gray corrosion;

BMC 145–169; BN 56–77; DO 105–116; MIB 164, 165; S 810.

35. AE follis, Constantinople (?), 630/1.

Obv. As last.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year X/X/I (=21); above, cross; beneath, officina letter Δ; in exergue, nothing visible.

Ø 31,4–32,1 mm; 10,30 g; 200⁰; green and dark patina and corrosion;

BMC 145–169; BN 56–77; DO 105–116; MIB 164, 165; S 810.

36. AE follis, small module, Constantinople, 631/2.

Obv. As last.

Rev. Large M between A/N/N/O and regnal year X/X/II (=21); above, cross; beneath, officina letter B; in exergue, CON.

Ø 22,6–24,3 mm; 5,59 g; 150⁰; chemically cleaned;

BMC 145–169; BN 56–77; DO 105–116; MIB 164, 165; S 810.

Group II (11 century)

37. AE follis of Constantine X Ducas (25.12.1059–21.05.1067), Constantinople 1059–1067.

Obv. Legend worn off – originally: +Ε ΜΜΑΝΟVΗΑ. Christ standing facing on

footstool, wearing nimbus cross, pallium and colobium, and holding book of Gospels with both hands; in field to l., $\overline{\text{IC}}$; to r. $\overline{\text{XC}}$ (details are invisible).

Rev. Legend and details worn off-originally: + $\overline{\text{KON T AK EVAK AVTO}}$ (or similar). Eudocia (wife of Constantine X) (on left) and Constantine, bearded (on right) standing facing, holding between them labarum, with cross on shaft, resting on three steps; each wears crown and loros.

Ø 23,2–26,3 mm; 5,60 g; 180°; brown colour and red and green corrosion;

BMC 18–31; BN 1–29; DO 8; S 1853.

38. Anonymous AE follis of Class A3, attributed to the last few years of Basil II (10.01.976–15.12.1025) and the sole reign of Constantine VIII (15.12.1025–11.11.1028); Constantinople and several provincial mints; c. 1020–1028.

Obv. Legend worn off – originally: + $\overline{\text{EMMANOVHA}}$. Bust of Christ facing, wearing nimbus cross (with two pellets in each limb of cross), pallium and colobium, and holding book of Gospels (the cover ornamented with central pellet in border of dots) with both hands; to left, $\overline{\text{IC}}$; to right, $\overline{\text{XC}}$.

Rev. + $\overline{\text{IhS}\Psi\text{S}}$ / $\overline{\text{XRIST}\Psi\text{S}}$ / $\overline{\text{bASILE}\Psi}$ / $\overline{\text{bASILE}}$ in four lines.

Ø 28,7–29,7 mm; 10,25 g; 180°; green and brown patina;

S 1818; ref. For class A: BMC (John I) 8–37, (Basil II and Constantine VIII) 21–40, Constantine VIII, sole reign) 10–13, (Romanus III) 4–6; BN pp. 596–8, nos 1–66; DO pp. 648–674.

39. As last.

Obv. As last.

Rev. [+ $\overline{\text{IhS}\Psi\text{S}}$ / $\overline{\text{X}}\overline{\text{RIST}}[\Psi\text{S}]$ / [$\overline{\text{b}}\overline{\text{ASILE}}[\Psi]$] / $\overline{\text{bASILE}}$ in four lines.

Ø 24,6–27,9 mm; 9,97 g; 180°; dark and gray patina;

S 1818; ref. For class A: BMC (John I) 8–37, (Basil II and Constantine VIII) 21–40, Constantine VIII, sole reign) 10–13, (Romanus III) 4–6; BN pp. 596–8, nos 1–66; DO pp. 648–674.

40. Anonymous AE follis of Class B, attributed to Romanus III (12.11.1028–11.04.1034), Constantinople.

Obv. Legend worn off – originally: + $\overline{\text{EMMANOVHA}}$. Bust of Christ facing, wearing nimbus cross (with square/rectangular in each limb of cross and pellet in each upper quarter), pallium and colobium, and holding book of Gospels (ornamented with dots) with both hands; to l., $\overline{\text{IC}}$; to r., $\overline{\text{XC}}$.

Rev. Cross, with pellet at each extremity, standing on three steps; in field, above transverse limbs of cross, $\overline{\text{IS}} - \overline{\text{XS}}$; beneath limbs, $\overline{\text{bAS}} - \overline{\text{ILE}}$ / $\overline{\text{bAS}} - \overline{\text{ILE}}$.

Ø 27,3–29,3 mm; 11,12 g; 150°; dark patina and green-gray corrosion;

S 182; BMC (Michael IV) 6–15; BN p. 599, nos. 67–85; DO pp. 676–9.

41. As last.

Obv. As last.

Rev. As last, but $\overline{\text{IC}} - \overline{\text{XC}}$; $\overline{\text{bASILE}}$ / $\overline{\text{bASILE}}$.

Ø 27,5–30,4 mm; 7,56 g; 150°; brown colour and red-black corrosion;
S 182; BMC (Michael IV) 6–15; BN p. 599, nos. 67–85; DO pp. 676–9.

42. Anonymous AE follis of Class C, attributed to Michael IV (12.04.1034–10.12.1041), Constantinople.

Obv. Legend worn off – originally: +EMMANOVHA. Three-quarter length figur of Christ Antiphonetes standing facing, wearing nimbus cross, pallium and colobium, and raising right hand in benediction; in left hand, book of Gospels; in field (worn off) to left, IC; to r. XC.

Rev. Jewelled cross, with pellet at each extremity; in the angles, $\overline{IC} - \overline{XC} / \overline{NI} - \overline{KA}$.

Ø 29,0–29,1 mm; 6,11 g; 180°; chemically cleaned;

S 1825; BMC (Theodora) 6–16; BN p. 600, nos. 86–106; DO pp. 681–4.

43. Anonymous AE follis of Class G, attributed to Romanus IV (01.01.1068–19.08.1071), Constantinople.

Obv. Details worn off. Bust of Christ facing, wearing nimbus cross, scroll; to left, [IC]; to r., [XC]; border of large pellets.

Rev. Hardly visible-originally: Facing bust of the Virgin orans, nimbate and wearing pallium and maphorium; to l., [MP]; to r., [OV]; border of large pellets.

Ø 25,2–26,6 mm; 8,95 g; 180°; green patina and orange corrosion;

S 1867; BMC (Constantine IX) 19–25; BN pp. 602–3, nos. 124–48; DO pp. 692–4.

44. Copper coin probably of El-Ashraf (Ayyoobees), Mayyafarikeen (Eastern Anatolia), A.H. 607–628, A.D. 1210–1230.

Obv. Details worn off. Figure seated, cross-legged, with one knee raised, wearing cap with tassels, and holding orb; around inscription (invisible).

Rev. Nothing visible; originally: inscription within ornamented triangle and in spaces between triangle and outer circle.

Ø 29,3–29,9 mm; 10,00 g; dark and green patina;

Poole 1879, pl. V/450–455, pp. 125–126.

MIROSŁAW KRUSZYŃSKI

Zespół monet bizantyńskich z Libanu

Zespół 44 monet zakupiony został przez autora niniejszego artykułu w marcu 1991 roku w Cambridge na terenie Wielkiej Brytanii. W momencie zakupu wszystkie monety były silnie skorodowane i pokryte szarą patyną. Zewnętrzne oględziny sugerowały, iż mogły one pochodzić z jednego znaleziska. Osoba sprzedająca wskazywała na Liban, jako miejsce pochodzenia monet, choć nie jest wykluczone, że pochodzą one z Syrii i trafiły do Wielkiej Brytanii przez Liban.

Chemiczne oczyszczenie większości monet (dokonane przez autora) umożliwiło opisanie okazów oraz ich klasyfikację. Monety wyraźnie tworzą dwie grupy: grupę I—wcześniejszą, liczącą 36 egzemplarzy oraz grupę II, późniejszą, zawierającą obok 7 monet bizantyńskich także monetę islamską z obszaru wschodniej Anatolii.

Grupa I zawiera głównie duże follisy brązowe Anastazjusza I, Justyna I, Justyniana I, Justyna II, Maurycego Tyberiusza, Fokasa i Herakliusza wraz z Herakliuszem Konstantynem. Najwcześniejsze okazy z okresu panowania Anastazjusza wybite zostały po reformie monetarnej przeprowadzonej w 498 roku, natomiast egzemplarzem najmłodszym jest jedyny w tej grupie zredukowany wagowo follis Herakliusza z lat 631–632. Jedynym wyjątkiem pośród monet grupy I jest półfollis Justyna II z lat 567–568, wybity w Nikomedii. Wśród mennic dominuje stołeczny Konstantynopol, zwłaszcza wśród monet wcześniejszych i najpóźniejszych. Występują także Nikomedia i Antiochia, stolica Syrii, którą po trzęsieniu ziemi 29 listopada 528 roku przemianowano na Theoupolis. Grupa I wydaje się być typowym skarbem (lub jego częścią) monet bizantyńskich z końca V, VI i I. połowy VII wieku. Grupa II zawiera 7 follisów bizantyńskich z XI wieku oraz monetę islamską z I. połowy XIII wieku. Wśród follisów występuje moneta Konstantyna X Dukasa oraz follisy anonimowe klasy A3, B, C i G przypisywane różnym władcom XI wieku. Moneta islamska jest prawdopodobnie (legenda jest niewidoczna) monetą ajubidzką El-Ashrafa, wybitą w Mayyafariken na terenie wschodniej Anatolii (na zachód od jeziora Van i na północny wschód od Diyarbakir) w latach 1210–1230. Nie jest wykluczone, iż część monet grupy II pierwotnie tworzyła zwarty zespół, choć możliwe jest także, że monety te zostały dorzucone do monet grupy I. Współwystępowanie monet bizantyńskich z XI wieku wraz z późniejszymi monetami islamskimi z XII i XIII wieku zostało potwierdzone w literaturze. Skarb 1000 monet z Raqqā zawierał 880 monet islamskich z przedstawieniami figuralnymi z XII wieku oraz 120 okazów bizantyńskich z X do początku XII wieku (Mitchell Brown 1974, s. 355).

Pewne różnice w wyglądzie monet grupy II dają podstawy do stwierdzenia iż nie jest to grupa jednorodna.

Podsumowując całość analizy zespołu, należy przyjąć, iż monety grupy I tworzyły najprawdopodobniej skarb, natomiast monety grupy II zostały później do niego dołączone.



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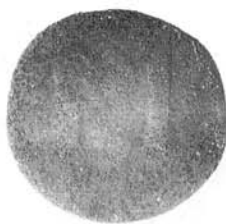
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