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DIRHAMS IN THE COLLECTION OF THE AUXILIARY SCIENCE AND ARCHIVE DEPARTMENT, INSTITUTE OF HISTORY, JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY

The collection of the Auxiliary Historical Science and Archive Department at the Institute of History, Jagiellonian University, contains a small coin set comprising five kufi dirhams. In its inventory record, the set is labeled as a "hoard from Byelorussia (Minsk Province?)" and is used by the Department's faculty in teaching.

The origin of the set is not clear. One significant question is, first of all, whether we are dealing with a hoard. If that is the case, the ensuing question is whether it is a complete find or a part that was saved from being dispersed or lost. Remaining doubts concern the circumstances in which it was gathered and the exact location where it was unearthed.

It seems possible that coins in the set were acquired prior to 1939 by the distinguished historian and heraldic expert Professor Władysław Semkowicz as a result of his contacts with private collectors. Professor Semkowicz is known to have maintained contacts with, among others, Adam Wolański,¹ the well known historian of art and collector in Cracow. An exchange could have produced a gathering of coins from one or possibly even several finds. Unfortunately, in the professor's legacy – including his library which he donated to the Nicholas Copernicus University at Toruń – no document has survived to help reconstruct the origin of the set in question. We cannot rule out the possibility that the set, though not abundant, could be a hoard or part of one and surfaced in what is now Byelorussia.² The scant number of coins does not, unfortunately, permit a detailed structural analysis and comparison with other numismatic material from finds of similar chronology in neighboring regions. Only that could throw more light on its provenance.

The catalog part in the present paper is arranged in columns. Underneath the name of the dynasty and ruler in the first column is coin number. The second column identifies the mint that struck the respective dirham. Column three contains the date of coinage in Islamic calendar (AH) and its equivalent in our chronology (AD) obtained from Wüstenfeld's conversion tables.3 Column four specifies coin weight, diameter and placement of the reverse relative to the obverse. The system used here to describe kufi dirhams includes some classifications of typical elements on those coins as proposed by the authors of the Swedish CNS inventory series.4 It is especially true of information provided in the last column which makes references to specialist literature followed by a description of the obverse field complete with the arrangement of the kalimah and inscriptions and ornaments, if present, over or under it, as well as a reference to la ligature according to the systematics by U.S. Linder Welin. Following it is a description of both marginal legends⁵ and any surrounding rings of which the first separates the field from the inner marginal legend and the second is the outermost element on a dirham

¹ Mikołajczyk 1994, p. 335.

² Information on the origin of the dirhams in the set I owe to Professor Zbigniew Perzanowski, who had occasion to study the collection left by Prof. Semkowicz and whom I am greatly indebted. I also thank Doctor Zenon Piech for allowing me access to the coins and Mr. Jarosław Bodzek, MA, for supplying me with their photographs.

³ Wüstenfeld 1903.

⁴ CNS Stockholm 1975-87.

⁵ CNS 1987, p. 208.

LIST OF COINS				
No.	Mint	Date AH = AD	Weight(g) ϕ (mm) Die axis(°)	References; Remarks; Additional inscriptions; Secondary individual data
1	2	3	4	5
ABBĀSID			72	
al-Muqtadir	billāh			
1 S	urra [man] r[a'ā]	31[1] 31[2] = 923/24 924/25	2,92 28 120	Cf. Ties. 1873 p. 243-44 no. 2301-8; Friedl. 1844 p. 26. Obv: kalimah I a, lā-type B with split tops, under kalimah بسر البو العباس بن رأى سنة. inner marg. leg; المؤمنين
				quotation from sūrah 30:3-4 (30:3-5) of al- Qur'ān; no rings. Rev: kalimah II a I, beneath kalimah المقدر!! بالله from sūrah 48:29 and 9:33; r. 1, m. 64? Several incisions on Obv; two irregular holes in the edge; Obv. and Rev: legends partly obliterated.
SĀMĀNID ·				
Ismā'īl ibn A				
2	aš-Šāš	290 = 902/3	3,02 27-29,5 180	Tbg 1848, p. 161 no. 45, Ties. 1873 p. 100. Obv: kalimah I a, lā-type A; inner marg. leg. (الشاش سنة تسعين ومائتن); outer marg. leg. as no. I; no rings. Rev: kalimah II b 2,
Nat the Need				beneath kalimah المكتفي بالله; marg. leg. as no. 1; r. 2. Obv. and Rev: legends partly obliterated.
Nūḥ ibn Naṣi	Samarqand	340 = 951/52	3,21	The 1848 p. 231 pg. 526. Ties 1853 p. 200
3	Samarqanu	340 - 931/32	30,5-31 90	Tbg 1848 p. 231 no. 526, Ties. 1853 p. 200. Obv: kalimah I a, lā-type A, beneath و; inner marg. leg. بسمرقند سنة اربعين وثلثمائة outer marg. leg. as no. I; r. 1. Rev: kalimah II b 2, beneath kalimah المستكني بالله
				نصر; marg. leg. as no. 1; r. 1. Obv. and Rev: partly obliterated. Broken into two parts: ca. 2/3 and 1/3.
AMĪRS AL-U	JMARĀ'			
al-Muzaffar 4	Abū l-Wafā[' Tūzi Wāsiṭ	in] [3]33= 944/45	4,26 27-29	CNS 1977 p. 162 no. 58; von Zamb. 1968 p. 268 n. 4 b. Obv: kalimah I a, lā-type B, beneath
			30	kalimah إبو الوفا المظفر; inner marg. leg بواسط سنة ثلث وثلثين outer marg. leg. as no. 1; m. 65. Rev: kalimah II a 3, الخلينة إبالله المستكفي r. 1; marg. leg. as no 1; m. 65. Obv. and Rev.: marg. legends partly obliterated. Wide margins.
SPANISH UN	MAYYAD			
	Mu'ayyad billāh ib		17420000	
5	al-Andalus	383 = 993/94	2,91 23,5 300	Lavoix 1891 p. 67. Obv: ornament above kalimah as Miles 1950, part II p. 384 (y), kalimah I a, lā-type B, ornamental رأسريك Rev: field المؤيد المير المؤمنين الاهام هشام Rev. field مسام المؤيد المير المؤمنين الاهام هشام عامر الله
				Two irregular holes above kalimah. Obv. and Rev.: marg. legends partly obliterated.

obverse.⁶ For the reverse, first there is a description of the type of the coin's kalimah and inscriptions above or below it and the kind of marginal legend, followed by the field separator ring and the outer ring. These data are supplemented by an italicized summary of secondary characteristics such as cuts and nicks on the surface, holes, legend wear, and margins width.⁷ The transcriptions of Oriental names and terms usually follow the system employed in above-mentioned inventories, the difference being that some phones rendered in double signs in those sources are in the present work written with one as used in the international transliteration (e.g., instead of sh we have an š). Phone assimilation for the definite article is also marked.

ABBREVIATIONS

AD = Anno Domini

AH = Anno Hegirae

Obv. = obverse

Rev. = reverse

m. = marginal ring

marg. = marginal

leg. = legend

r. = ring surrounding the field

COMMENTARY

The oldest coin in the set is a Sāmānid dirham of amīr Ismā^cīl ibn Aḥmad struck at the aš-Šāš mint in the year 290 AH = 902/3 AD, while the youngest is a dirham of an Umayyad caliph of Spain, Hišām II, struck in 383 AH = 993/94 AD at the al-Andalus mint. As many as four Islamic dynasties are represented in the coin set. Only the Sāmānids have two pieces in the group, while other rulers are represented by single coins. Thus we have an 'Abbāsid dirham, one piece struck by an amīr alumarā', and one of the Spanish Umayyad dynasty. None of the coins is an exceptional rarity, nor are they very common in monetary silver finds in Baltic area. Thus it seems justified to take a closer look at the set of dirhams.

⁷ CNS 1987, pp. XIV-XVII, 206-211.

⁶ Ring types follow charts in: CNS 1987, pp. 209-211.

Dirhams of the 'Abbasid caliph al-Muqtadir billāh make, among that dynasty's emissions, regular contributions from Central, Eastern, and Northern Europe. They are found in such deposits as the hoards of Maurzyce (an incomplete coin with missing date, struck at Madīnat as-Salām),8 Zalesie (six coins and fragments issued at several mints of the caliphate in the years 298-311 AH = 910/11-923/24 AD),9 Ciechanów10 and Dzierznica II. The last hoard includes more than a dozen fragments dated from the name al-Muqtadir billah at 295-320 AH, but only one of them was struck at Surra man ra'ā.11 One type analogous as to the date of coinage and mint to a dirham from our set is a coin found in the Obrzycko hoard which also contained 8 more pieces bearing that caliph's name. No details are provided by the author of the publication on that hoard, so we cannot be certain that no difference exists between those dirhams.¹² We may only surmise that below the obverse kalimah there was - as there is on the piece presented here - an additional inscription, introduced under al-Muqtadir billah, with the name of the ruler's son who was in charge of the Islamic empire's mints. 13 Conspicuously, the caliph's name is misspelled with the letter = missing.

A coin of Ismā^cīl ibn Aḥmad is among the earliest dirhams of this dynasty that found their way to hoards uncovered in Poland and neighboring countries. On these territories, such issues mark the beginning of the third, last inflow of Arabic silver. The earliest of such hoards are dated at the very end of the ninth and beginning of the tenth centuries. The coin in question is only one year later than the youngest 58 pieces in the Klukowicze hoard which were coined in the same mint at aš-Šāš. The oldest Sāmānid dirham in the Zalesie hoard was issued in $294 \, \text{AH} = 906/7 \, \text{AD}$ at the Andarābah mint, by while a fragment of another dirham of the same

⁸ Gozdowski 1959, pp. 15–16, no 1.

⁹ Kmietowicz 1969, pp. 19–21, nos 5–10. A piece from Surra man ra'ā mint dates to 298 AH, while another one half of a dirham of 311 AH is missing the mint name.

¹⁰ A monograph on the Oriental content in Ciechanów hoard is being developed and prepared for publication by the present author.

¹¹ A monograph on the Oriental content in this find is being prepared for publication by A. Kmietowicz.

¹² Friedl. 1844, p. 26

¹³ Broome 1985, pp. 29, 32

¹⁴ Czapkiewicz 1964. p. 367

¹⁵ Kmietowicz 1969, p. 27, no 26

dynasty, struck at an unidentified mint and discovered at Maurzyce, is a year older. The aš-Šāš mint produced the oldest Sāmānid dirham struck in 292 AH = 904/5 AD and uncovered at Ciechanów, while a piece of 290 AH, missing the mint name, was reported among the Dzierznica hoard. The variant this coin belongs to also appeared in an unknown hoard from Byelorussia and another from Chabrówka. Among Gotland finds, this dirham type was reported in the hoards of Ösarve, Digeråkra, and Tuer II. A coin with the same date of issue and name of mint is found among Sāmānid emissions in the Máramaros hoard, although that piece differs in lettering and appearance from ours. Typologically, the dirham in our set is not distinctive except for a missing letter in the 100's place of the date (combatterior). This spelling is confirmed by numismatic material from the same mint found in the Klukowicze find.

Another Sāmānid coin in our set is a dirham of amir Nūḥ ibn Naṣr struck in 340 AH at the Samarqand mint. A similar type, as regards the arrangement of legends and rings, is part of the Zalesie find, ²³ but it is only a 3/5 fragment and there is no certainty whether it had under its obverse kalimah a second letter $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ as our coin does. No such coins were reported in the Ciechanów and Maurzyce finds. A piece issued at Samarqand in 340 AH was discovered in the Swedish find at Smedby (Östergötland). The dirham's field legend contains the name of caliph al-Mustakfī billāh, who was deposed as early as 334 AH, in a gesture of Sāmānid opposition against the despotism of Buwayhid amīrs who elevated caliphs to the throne or toppled them at will.

A highly turbulent period in the 'Abbāsid caliphate history is recalled by a dirham issued in the southern Iraqi mint of Wāsit. Under a kalimah

¹⁶ Gozdowski 1959, p. 17, no 3

¹⁷ Kmietowicz 1974, p. 31, no 8. It is probable that that hoard could be involved with the set in question. The pattern may be discerned in that they both share their presumed place of origin (Byelorussia) and coin types, which are also common with Klukowicze. It cannot be ruled out that attempts were made to exchange individual dirham from various hoards by the people referred to in the publication quoted or by their heirs.

¹⁸ Czapkiewicz 1974, p. 25, no 72

¹⁹ CNS 1977, p. 8, nos 49–50

²⁰ CNS 1977, p. 23, no 29

²¹ CNS 1977. p. 111, nos 66–67

 $^{^{22}\,}$ Fomin 1987, pp. 16–17, no 12

²³ Kmietowicz 1969, p. 63, no 128

on the obverse, the name is inscribed of al-Muzaffar Abū l-Wafā' Tūzūn, reffering to the then amīr al-umarā'. This post originally designated the caliphate's military commander-in-chief. The first to hold it was the eunuch Mūnis al-Hādim, who was appointed by caliph al-Muqtadir billāh in 317 AH = 929/30 AD. Under the caliph's powerless rule, rival administrative officials in the persons of succesive wazīrs and amīrs al-umarā' sought to take over all real power in the caliphate, which the last-name were eventually successful in doing. One of them was Tuzun, a Turkish mercenary who had spent years in service to various masters in Iran and eventually ended up in the caliphate capital.26 Having made a name for himself as a military commander in struggles against opponents of central authority, in the month of ramadan 331 AH = June 943 AD, he was appointed next amīr al-umarā' by caliph al-Muttaqī lillāh.27 The ruler who attempted to gain independence from his influence by making alliances with such local dynasties as the Syrian Hamdanids or Egypt's Muhammad Ihšīd ibn Tuġğ - was deposed and blinded by a bribed Tūzūn in 333 AH = 944 AD, to be replaced by a new caliph al-Mustakfī billāh.28 Tūzūn's brief time in office of amīr al-umarā' was also spent on struggles on the empire's northern frontier, where hostilities continued with Byzantium, and in the south-east, where the Buwayhids made inroads. A member of the latter dynasty, Ahmad ibn Buwayh, captured and relinquished the city of Wāsit - where one of our coins was struck - several times in succession. In the whole of 333 AH, it was only for a brief period between the end of the month of ragab (January/February) and beginning of ramadan (March/ April) that such coins may not have been struck at that mint precisely because of the city's temporary occupation by the Buwayhids. Von Zambaur knew of two dirham variants issued at Wasit in that year, one with only the name of caliph al-Mustakfi billah and the other also with the kunyah of Tūzūn – Abū al-Wafā'.29 If during Ahmad ibn Buwayh's brief rule in the city the mint turned out any coins, they were most probably of

²⁴ CNS 1983, p. 66, no 237

²⁵ CNS 1983, p. 66, no 237

²⁶ CHI 1975, pp. 84, 256-57

²⁷ De Zamb. 1927, p. 9

²⁸ De Zamb. 1927, p. 4

²⁹ Kunyah was a kind of nickname made up of the word *ab* (father) or *umm* (mother) and the son's name. EI 1986, vol. V, pp. 396–397.

the earlier variant as the dynasty's earliest dirhams from Wāsit the author dates at 336 AH, i.e. after dynasty representatives took over real power in the caliphate.³⁰ The earlier type is known e.g. from the above-mentioned Obrzycko hoard,³¹ the latter – apart from our set – is reported in Markov's catalog,³² in his Topografia kladov (a separate piece from the Hafdhem hoard in Gotland),³³ in the Gotland part of CNS inventories (the Hāffinds II hoard³⁴), and finally by Vasmer, the author of the report on the Friedrichshof hoard in Estonia.³⁵ Dzierznica II contains 9 fragments with the kunyah Abū al-Wafā' from such mints as Madīnat as-Salām and Antākiyyah, but most of them are missing an exact date.³⁶

One of the most interesting coins in our set is the dirham of the Spanish caliph of the Umayyad dynasty, Hišām II al-Mu'ayyad billāh, struck at al-Andalus in 383 AH. Although its obverse field legend is only a variant of those found on other dirhams in the set, its reverse field legend is altogether different. Different, too, is the ornament above the kalimah. If the coin itself is of interest, so are the circumstances of its circulation, especially outside of the Iberian Peninsula. As has been reported, emissions from the western Arab world, including Umayyad Spain, most probably reached Central, Eastern, and Northern Europe via an indirect route as part of a flow of silver from eastern parts of the ^cAbbāsid caliphate.³⁷ By the end of the tenth century, under Hišām II, they had become extremely rare in our part of the continent, and east of the river Bug they were never discovered in any coin find. Caliph Hišām II reign was as unremarkable as it was long: first from 366 AH = 976/77 AD to 399 AH = 1008/9 AD and again, after a pause caused by forceful removal by the military, from 400 to 403 AH = 1009/10 to 1012/13 AD. He was finally deposed and probably murdered in 403 AH. In the history of the Spanish Umayyad caliphate, his name is symbolic of

³⁰ Von Zamb. 1968, p. 268

³¹ Friedl. 1844, p. 26; Ties. 1873, p. 255, no 2462. Also reported here is a 333 AH dirham with Tūzūn's kunyah, Abū al-Wafā', but issued at Madīnat as-Salām.

³² Markov 1896, p. 64

³³ Markov 1910, pp. 70–71

³⁴ CNS 1977, p. 162, no 58

 $^{^{\}rm 35}$ Vasmer 1925, no 25. This report was unavailable to me.

³⁶ Information obtained from A. Kmietowicz.

³⁷ Kiersnowski 1960, pp. 117-118; Hatz 1974, p. 24

extreme incompetence. 38 Paradoxically, only the final part of this ruler's reign is viewed critically. The earlier period is notable for the accomplishments of Muhammad ibn Abī 'Āmir, better known by his honorary title of al-Mansūr billāh. First a supporter of the mother of the underage caliph's, then chamberlain, wazīr, and eventually effective ruler in 367-392 AH = 977/78-1001/2 AD, he excelled as military commander and reformer, politician and gifted organizer. Although he was unable to win Hišām's throne, he enjoyed other privileges of a caliph, such as having his name mentioned in Friday prayer and impressed on coins.39 The name عامر seen on the reverse of the dirham under discussion refers to none other than al-Mansūr. 40 The large output of Umayyad caliphate mints at the time, especially of the one at al-Andalus - today's Cordova⁴¹ – caused the dirhams of this type to become one of the more frequently encountered coins on Iberian Peninsula finds. At the same time, these dirhams are high-quality coins, issued at a time of economic prosperity.⁴² They also occur in deposits in Central, Eastern, and Northern Europe, though here they are a rarity. Their presence was reported in finds in Norway (one al-Andalus dirham of 379 AH = 989/90 AD at Vestlandet), Sweden (Heligholmen, Gotland, hoard containing, among other things, 12 al-Andalus dirhams of this caliph of 378 AH = 988/89 - 1010/11 AD; and Snovalds with one Al-Andalus dirham of 399 AH = 1008/9 AD), and England (a single find of an al-Andalus dirham of 390 AH = 999/1000 AD). 43 In Poland, their presence was reported only in Great Poland hoards at Starydworek (a dirham of unknown date from an unspecified mint) and Wielowieś (a dirham issued under Hišām II or III).44 Such a broad distribution of dirhams caused them to be copied by German hybrid imitations, examples of which are

³⁸ Hitti 1969, pp. 449-450

³⁹ Hitti 1969, p. 448

⁴⁰ Miles 1950, p. 25; Broome 1985, p. 40

⁴¹ Von Zamb. 1968, p. 54

⁴² Josep Pellicer i Bru, On the Silver Coinage of the Caliphate Issued in the Name of Hisam II Almowayad Billah (A.H. 366–403/AD 976/1013), in: *Marques* 1986, pp. 189, 191.

⁴³ A. Mikołajczyk, Movements of Spanish Umayyad Dirhams from the Iberian Area to Central, Nordic, and Eastern Europe in the Early Middle Ages, in: *Marques* 1988, pp. 257–260, 262.

⁴⁴ PSW I, p. 62, no 125, p. 70, no 144; A. Mikołajczyk, Movements..., in: *Marques* 1988, pp. 259–260.

known from such finds in Central Europe as the German hoard of Vossberg. $^{\rm 45}$

The dirham of caliph Hišām in our set exemplifies a phenomenon unique to silver coin – at least as far as Spain is concerned – that has still not been wholly explained. Namely, holes were made in some coins. The problem was written about by G.C. Miles in his monograph on Spanish Umayyad coinage. He suggested that punching holes in coins might have been a form of demonetization. 46 According to the author of the most recent analysis of the question, A. C. García, two elongated holes were the most common pattern on dirhams.⁴⁷ If not for the fact that on our dirham they run from obverse through to reverse, we might think that they were made so as not to damage the kalimah. G. A. García claims that find data prove beyond doubt that perforated coins continued to be used as currency, at least in private transactions. At the same time, a lack of perforated coins in hoards containing mainly decorations seems to indicate that such coins were not used as ornaments. The practice of perforating dirhams may be associated with periods of ailing authority as it seems to have been more rare when high-quality coin was issued. The researcher quoted supports Miles's hypothesis that punching holes in coins might have been a method to demonetize them other than by mandatory coin replacement, which may have resulted in their continued use in the population despite their partial loss of value.⁴⁸ At the same time, it need not contradict a use of such coins as ornaments in Spain.

In the context of the established fact that dirham hoards in eastern Poland and Byelorussia – as opposed to chronologically similar deposits in northern and western Poland and Silesia – are not significantly fragmented, we cannot exclude the possibility that the set under discussion was a deposit or part of one. All the dirhams in the set are whole, even if in

⁴⁵ PSW II, p. 113, no 193; Kiersnowski 1960, p. 137, also mentions hoards of Ciechanów and Kowal which are not included in the list given by A. Mikołajczyk, in: *Marques* 1988, perhaps because of a lack of information on the type of Arabic reverse in those imitations.

⁴⁶ Miles 1950, pp. 95-96.

⁴⁷ A. C. García, Perforations in Coins of the Andalusian Umayyad Caliphate: A Form of Demonetization?, in: *Marques* 1986, p. 359.

⁴⁸ A. C. García, Perforations..., in: Marques 1986, p. 357.

varying condition. Yet it seems that there are more indications to support the supposition that the coins in the set were hand-picked to serve a purpose. Another argument against treating the coins as a hoard or find is the fact that the time span between the earliest and the latest coins in the set is as long as 91 years, which is a rare occurrence for Polish and Byelorussian hoards dated at the second half of the tenth century. Perhaps the underlying purpose in creating the set was educational as would be indicated by an absence in the set of fragmented dirhams that would be much less useful in serving that purpose. If such action was indeed taken, then we may surmise that whoever did it had at least rudimentary knowledge of Oriental numismatics. Regardless of who was involved in the history of our set, we are indebted to him for our opportunity to study the interesting numismatic evidence provided by the Arab dirhams that make up the set.

ANDRZEJ BARTCZAK

Dirhamy z kolekcji Zakładu Nauk Pomocniczych Historii i Archiwistyki Instytutu Historii Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego

W zbiorach Zakładu Nauk Pomocniczych Historii i Archiwistyki Instytutu Historii Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego znajduje się niewielki zespół monet składający się z 5 dirhamów kufickich. Zespół ten jest opatrzony w inwentarzu metryką "skarb z terenu Białorusi (Mińskie?)". Jego pochodzenie nie jest jasne. Monety wchodzące w jego skład mogły być pozyskane jeszcze przed 1939 r. przez wybitnego historyka i heraldyka prof. Władysława Semkowicza w rezultacie kontaktów z kolekcjonerami prywatnymi. Omawiany zespół mógł być znaleziskiem lub jego częścią i pochodzić z terenu dzisiejszej Białorusi.

Najstarszą monetą wchodzącą w skład zespołu jest samanidzki dirham amira Ismāʿīla ibn Ahmad, wybity w mennicy a aš-Šāš w 290 AH = 902/3 AD. Moneta ta należy do najwczesniejszych dirhamów tej dynastii, znalezionych w depozytach ukrytych na terenie Polski i krajów sąsiednich. Inną monetą samanidzka z opisywanego zespolu jest dirham amira Nūha ibn Nasra, wybity w 340 AH = 951/52 AD w mennicy w Samarqand. W legendzie pola tego dirhama widnieje imię usuniętego jeszcze w 334 AH = 945/46 AD kalifa al-Mustakfiego billāh.

Następnym okazem wchodzacym w skład zespołu jest wybity w Surra man ra'ā dirham abbasydzkiego kalifa al-Muqtadira billāh. Typ analogiczny do tej monety znaleziony został w wielkopolskim skarbie z Obrzycka.

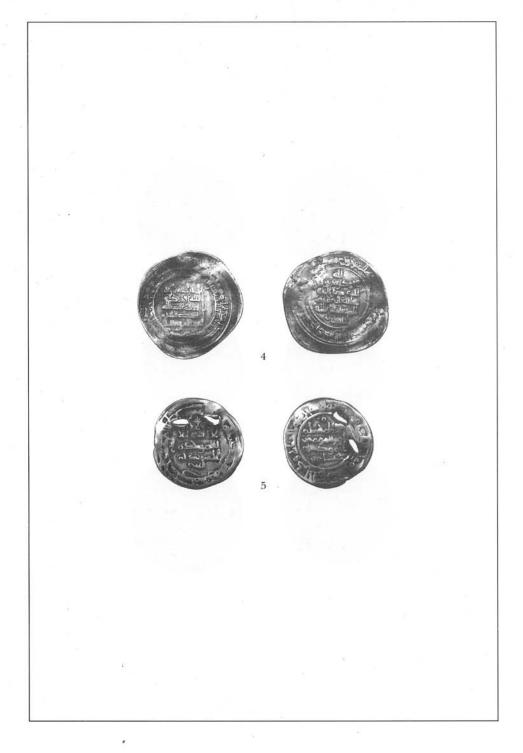
Kolejny dirham został wybity w 333 AH w południowoirackiej mennicy Wāsit, a na jego awersie widnieje imię al-Muzaffar Abū l-Wafā' Tūzūn, ówczesnego amīra al-umarā (głównego dowódcę w kalifacie). Według Von Zambaura znane były dwie odmiany dirhamów bitych w Wāsit w tym roku, jedna z nich z samym tylko imieniem kalifa al-Mustakfiego billāh, druga dodatkowo z kunją Tūzūna - Abū al-Wafā'. Pierwszy typ znany jest m.in. ze wspomnianego skarbu z Obrzycka, drugi natomiast oprócz naszego zespołu jest odnotowany m.in. w katalogu Markova, jeszcze inny w jego Topografii kladov (jest to moneta ze skarbu gotladzkiego w Hafdhem), w części gotlandzkich inwentarzy CNS (skarb z Häffinds II), a także przez Vasmera, autora opracowania skarbu z Friedrichshof z Estonii. W skarbie Dzierznica II znalazło się 9 fragmentów z kunją Abū l-Wafā' z takich mennic, jak Madīnat as-Salām oraz Antākijja, ale brak na większości z nich dokładnej daty.

Do najciekawszych monet zespołu należy dirham hiszpańskiego kalifa z dynastii Umajjadów, Hišāma II al-Mu'ajjada billāh, wybity w al-Andalus w 383 AH. Emisje z zachodu świata arabskiego, w tym i z umajjadzkiej Hiszpanii na tereny Europy Środkowej, Wschodniej i Północnej docierały najprawdopodobniej drogą okrężną, niesione na fali napływu srebra z rejonów wschodnich kālifatu abbāsydzkiego. Imię widniejące na rewersie opisywanego dirhama odnosi się Muhammada ibn Abī Āmira, znanego jako al-Mansūr billāh, faktycznego władcy państwa w 367– 392 AH = 977/78 - 1001/2 AD. Te wysokiej jakości dirhamy należą do jednych z częściej spotykanych w znaleziskach z terenów Półwyspu Iberyjskiego. Występują one także w depozytach z rejonów Europy Środkowej, Wschodniej i Północnej, stanowiąc tu jednakże dużą rzadkość. Stały się one wzorem dla niemieckich naśladownictw typu hybrydalnego, których przykłady znane są z takich znalezisk z terenów Europy Srodkowej jak niemiecki skarb z miejscowości Vossberg. Ciekawą cechą dirhama z omawianego zespołu są dwa charakterystyczne otwory, co według pewnych badaczy (G. C. Milesa i ostatnio A. C. Garcii) jest związane ze zjawiskiem demonetyzacji.

Wszystkie dirhamy omawianego zespołu są monetami kompletnymi, co jest charakterystyczne dla znalezisk monet kufickich z terenów wschodniej Polski i Białorusi. Wydaje się, że więcej przemawia za tym, iż monety z niego pochodzące są egzemplarzami dobranymi w taki sposób, by mogły służyć celom dydaktycznym. Rozpiętość między datami wybicia najstarszej i najmłodszej monety wchodzących w jego skład wynosi aż 91 lat, co w depozytach z Polski i Białorusi datowanych na 2 poł. X w. nie jest zjawiskiem częstym.



Phot. H. Pieczul Tab. I



Phot. H. Pieczul Tab. II