

The above reservations are of secondary importance and do not detract from an overall high quality of the discussed work. Without a doubt, the publication will be an indispensable tool for numismatists interested in the coinage of ancient Caria.

JAROSŁAW BODZEK

Translated by Tadeusz Stanek

M. MIELCZAREK, *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum*. Poland. Vol. I: The Archaeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź. Part 4: Galatia - Zeugitana, (The Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences), Kraków 1998, pp.64, pls 25, ISBN 83-86956-28-3.

For anyone interested in ancient numismatics, and particularly in antique coin collections in Poland, the publication of the first volume of the Polish edition of *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum* is a momentous event. This international series, published under the patronage of the International Numismatic Commission and under the auspices of L'Union Académique Internationale, has become a standard observed in almost all countries that possess significant collections of ancient Greek coins. This is why the volume by Mariusz Mielczarek has been eagerly awaited by the Polish numismatic community. Moreover, only a fraction of Polish collections of ancient Greek coins have so far been published<sup>1</sup>.

The volume under discussion was financed and brought out under the auspices of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, representing L'Union Académique Internationale, as is the entire Polish edition of the *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum*. It contains publication of one part of the collection of the Archaeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź. Subsequent volumes will deal with the rest of that collection and those of the National Museums in

---

<sup>1</sup> The only larger assembly of Greek coins to have been fully published is the collection of the Regional Museum in Toruń (cf. A. KRZYŻANOWSKA, *Monety starożytne w zbiorach Muzeum Okręgowego w Toruniu* [Ancient Coins at the Regional Museum in Toruń], Toruń 1985). There has been no comprehensive publication concerning the largest Polish collections of Greek coins, those in the National Museum in Warsaw, National Museum in Kraków, Ossoliński Family National Institute Library, or precisely Archaeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź.

Warsaw and Kraków. Credit for inclusion of Polish collections to the *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum* project is due to Mariusz Mielczarek himself, whose involvement and hard work made it possible.

As has been said, the volume in question covers a part of the Łódź collection and is one of projected four that are to present the entire major collections. The numismatic collection of the Archaeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź is among the largest in Poland. Its history goes back to the 1930's, but having been looted during World War II, it practically had to be started all over again in 1948<sup>2</sup>. Of great importance to the museum's possessions were the acquisitions in the late 40's and early 50's of the significant collections of Wincenty Nalepa, Zdzisław Jochman, and Andrzej Klein. The last set is especially remarkable as it was assembled during World War II in the Near East and Palestine and includes many items found in that region<sup>3</sup>. The collection was further enlarged by purchases from private collectors. Especially active in seeking out new acquisitions were Prof. Konrad Jeżewski, Anatol Gupieniec, Dr. Andrzej Mikołajczyk, and Prof. Mariusz Mielczarek.

While no comprehensive publication of Greek coins in Łódź museum was ever made available, parts of the collection were published in a series of articles<sup>4</sup>, mainly through the efforts of Mariusz Mielczarek. This applies

<sup>2</sup> For the history of the numismatic collection at the Archaeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź, see: A. MIKOŁAJCZYK, „Zbiory numizmatyczne Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego w Łodzi” [The Numismatic Collection of the Archeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź], *Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego Seria Numizmatyczna i Konserwatorska*, vol. I, 1981, pp. 5-67; IDEM, „Z piasków pustyni do łódzkiego muzeum” [From Desert Sands to Łódź Museum], *Z Odcieni Wieków XLVII*, 1981, fasc. 1-2, pp. 85-89; K.E. NATKAŃSKI, „Rozwój kolekcji monet antycznych w muzeach łódzkich” [Collection of Ancient Coins at the Łódź Museum], *Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego Seria Numizmatyczna i Konserwatorska* vol. 7, 1987, pp. 133-146.

<sup>3</sup> Ancient coin finds in the Near East were presented in: M. MIELCZAREK & J. PINIŃSKI, „Monety greckie, rzymskie i bizantyńskie znalezione na Bliskim Wschodzie w zbiorach Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego w Łodzi” [Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Coins discovered in the Near East in the collection of the Archeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź], *Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego Seria Numizmatyczna i Konserwatorska* 3, 1983, pp. 31-79.

<sup>4</sup> M. MIELCZAREK, „Monety państwa bosforskiego w zbiorach Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego w Łodzi” [Coins of the Bosphoran Kingdom in the Collection of the Archeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź], *Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego Seria Numizmatyczna i Konserwatorska*, 3, 1983, pp. 5-29; IDEM, „Monety greko-baktryjskie w zbiorach Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego w Łodzi” [Greco-bactrian and indo-bactrian coins in the Collection of the Archeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź] *Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego Seria Numizmatyczna i Konserwatorska*, 1, 1981, pp. 69-80; IDEM, „Dwa brązowe naśladownictwa monet Helioklesa z numizmatycznego zbioru Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego w Łodzi” [Two Bronze Imitations of Heliocles' Coins in the Numismatic Collection

to some of those parts of the collection that were included in the Sylloge volume under discussion.

In all, the publication presents 313 coins, from Galatia (1 piece), Cappadocia (11 pcs.), Syria with Seleucid kings (50 pcs.), Phoenicia (13 pcs.), Palestine (31 pcs.), Arabia (23 pcs.), Arabia Felix (1 pc.), Persia, (1 pc.), Elymais (2 pcs.), Parthia (20 pcs.), Bactria and India (28 pcs.), Egypt (117 pcs.), Cyrenaica (5 pcs.), to Zeugitana (8 pcs.). A collection of a varied and disparate nature, it is a difficult subject to write about and one requiring a vast knowledge. By all means, its author rose to the challenge.

Especially significant are coins from mints in Syria, Palestine, Arabia, and Egypt, 239 items in all and the most numerous group among the set of Łódź relics included in the publication. Importantly, many of them have a plausibly documented provenance from finds in Turkey (no. 6), Israel (nos. 16, 19, 26, 27, 33-37, 39-42, 50, 53-54, 56-57, 66, 69, 71, 73-77, 81-83, 85-86, 90-94, 101-102, 104-105, 190, 198, 205-206, 208, 217, 244, 289, 291, 294), Gaza Strip (nos. 78-80, 184, 204, 267-268), Jordan (nos. 88, 107, 111-128), Syria (no. 129), and Egypt (nos. 46, 231). As has been mentioned, most of them were gathered by A. Klein and with the rest of his collection found themselves in the Łódź museum in 1947-48.

Another notable group of items consists of Bactrian and Indian coins (nos. 155-183). It includes a group of oboli of Eucratides I and features the variant with a portrait in a diadem (nos. 161-166) and a helmeted portrait (167-174), as well as imitations of coins of Antioch I (nos. 178-179), Eucratides (nos. 180-181), and Heliocles (nos. 182-183).

Credit is due to the author for the catalog being highly conscientiously prepared. All coins included in the publication are accompanied by good-quality photographs by Władysław Podhorecki. M. Mielczarek adopted a consistent, clear, and legible arrangement. If a complaint were to be made it might concern a minor inconsistency in Ptolemaic coinage. The author followed the general rule that all coins of the Ptolemies, whether issued in the dynasty's mints in or outside Egypt, were listed together in the section devoted to the coinage of

---

of the Archeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź], *Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego Seria Numizmatyczna i Konserwatorska*, 7, 1987, pp. 5-9; IDEM, „Cesarskie monety aleksandryjskie I-III wieku w zbiorach Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego w Łodzi” [Imperial Alexandrian Coins of the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Centuries in the Collection of the Archeological and Ethnographical Museum in Łódź], *Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego Seria Numizmatyczna i Konserwatorska*, 5, 1985, pp. 5-20; IDEM, „Two Imitations of Eucratides' Obols from the Museum Collection in Łódź”, *Wiadomości Numizmatyczne* XXXI, 1987, fasc. 1-2, pp. 48-51; also cf. note 3 above.

the Ptolemies. However, specimens of Ptolemaic coins from Cyrene mint were inconsistently cataloged with other Cyrenaica coinage instead.

Coin descriptions are concise but to the point. As the introduction points out, legends in the Greek alphabet were quoted in the full version, others were transliterated. An exception to this rule are legends on imitations of Eucratides' coins, which were given in the full form. In this case, the departure is fully justified and accepted owing to the nature of both the inscriptions and the coins themselves.

A further indication of the author's meticulous precision is a virtual lack of errors in the volume. Only coin no. 48 would probably be better attributed to Nerva rather than Domitian. For the Aradian coin no. 63, it would have been useful to add that the Phoenician letters mentioned by the author are mem and aleph. The above remarks do not detract from a high estimation of the work.

The catalog comes complete with useful indices of places, rulers – divided into kings and dynasts, Roman emperors and procurators of Judea – types and symbols, countermarks, and monograms.

The volume under review is a valuable contribution. It will be a tool of scholarly researchers in numismatics and a source of knowledge for collectors, especially in Poland. It should be hoped that more sylloge volumes will appear to cover other Polish collections of Greek coins. They deserve it.

JAROSŁAW BODZEK

Translated by Tadeusz Stanek

Y.MESHORER, SH. QEDAR, *Samarian Coinage*, (Publications of the Israel Numismatic Society. Numismatic Studies and Researches IX), Jerusalem 1999, pp. 128, pls 31, ISBN-965-222-965.

Nine years since the publication of their pioneering work on Samarian coinage, in the fourth century BC<sup>1</sup>, Ya'akov Meshorer and Shraga Qedar decided to tackle the problem once again. A large number of new, heretofore unknown coin types caused what was originally meant as an addendum to expand to

---

<sup>1</sup> Y. MESHORER, S. QEDAR, *The Coinage of Samaria in the Fourth Century BCE*, Jerusalem 1991.