

NOTAE NUMISMATICAE

ZAPISKI NUMIZMATYCZNE



Tom XX

MUZEUM NARODOWE W KRAKOWIE
SEKCJA NUMIZMATYCZNA
KOMISJI ARCHEOLOGICZNEJ PAN
ODDZIAŁ W KRAKOWIE

Kraków 2025

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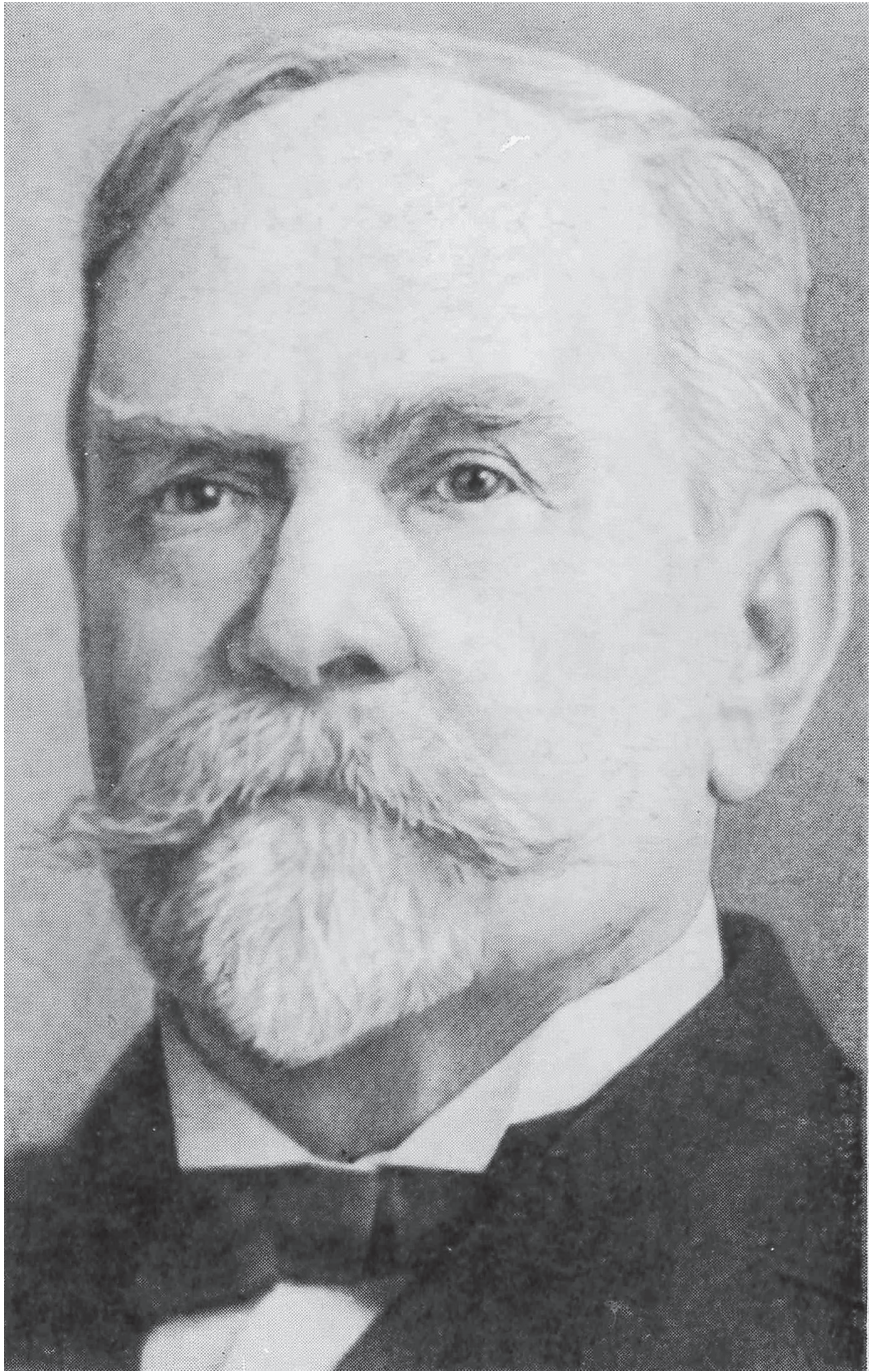
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Zygmunt Mineyko (1840–1925). Fot. Archiwum Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie
Zygmunt Mineyko (1840–1925). Photo: Archives of the National Museum in Krakow

Szanowni Państwo,

oddajemy w Państwa ręce tom XX *Notae Numismaticae – Zapisków Numizmatycznych*. Zgodnie z przyjętymi przez nas zasadami wszystkie teksty publikujemy w językach kongresowych, z angielskimi i polskimi abstraktami. Zawartość obecnego tomu oraz tomy archiwalne są zamieszczone w formie plików PDF na stronie internetowej Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie (<https://mnk.pl/notae-numismaticae-zapiski-numizmatyczne-1>). Na stronie dostępne są ponadto wszelkie informacje ogólne o czasopiśmie oraz instrukcje dla autorów i recenzentów.

Sto lat temu 27 grudnia 1925 roku zmarł w Atenach Zygmunt Mineyko (1840–1925), człowiek o niezwykłym życiorysie, oddany Ojczyźnie patriota, weteran Powstania Styczniowego, emigrant, a jednocześnie filhellen i honorowy obywatel Grecji. Jego zasługi na polu walki z rosyjskim zaborcą, emigracyjna tułaczka i wkład w budowę Państwa Greckiego są dosyć dobrze znane, głównie dzięki spisany przez niego samego pamiętnikom przechowywanym w Bibliotece Jagiellońskiej w Krakowie, w części wydanych drukiem w 1971 roku pod tytułem *Z Tajgi pod Akropol*. Dzięki publikacjom polskich i greckich archeologów znane są również dokonania Mineyki na polu archeologii, a w szczególności jego udział w badaniach na terenie położonego w Epirze słynnego sanktuarium Zeusa w Dodonie.

Zygmunt Mineyko interesował się również numizmatyką i nie były to zainteresowania powierzchowne. Spod jego pióra wyszło – niestety nigdy nieopublikowane – dzieło poświęcone jak sam pisał „objawom numizmatyki”. Rękopis tej pracy przechowywany obecnie we Lwowie, w dawnych zbiorach Zakładu Narodowego im. Ossolińskich, pozwala uznać ją za bardzo nowoczesne i wyprzedzające swe czasy opracowanie. Zygmunt Mineyko jest również ściśle powiązany z historią zbiorów numizmatycznych Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie. W latach 1924 i 1926 do zbiorów krakowskiego Muzeum Narodowego trafiło w dwóch transzach prawie sto antycznych monet podarowanych przez Stanisława Mineykę (1875–1924), syna Zygmunta. Choć formalnie ofiarodawcą był Stanisław najprawdopodobniej inspiratorem daru był jego ojciec, który z powodzeniem realizował ideę wzbogacania polskich instytucji naukowych i muzeów zespołami starożytnych monet. Dary takie zostały lub miały zostać przekazane Muzeum Narodowemu w Warszawie, Uniwersytetowi Wileńskiemu, Uniwersytetowi Jagiellońskiemu oraz jak wspomniano Muzeum Narodowemu w Krakowie. Niniejszy tom naszego czasopisma pragniemy dedykować pamięci Zygmunta i Stanisława Mineyków.

Redakcja

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to present you with volume 20 of *Notae Numismaticae – Zapiski Numizmatyczne*. As is our policy, we publish all texts in the congress languages, with English and Polish abstracts. The contents of current volume and archive numbers are available as PDF files on the website of the National Museum in Krakow (<https://mnk.pl/notae-numismaticae-zapiski-numizmatyczne-1>). The website also provides all general information about the journal, along with guidelines for authors and reviewers.

One hundred years ago, on 27 December 1925, Zygmunt Mineyko (1840–1925) died in Athens. He was a man with an extraordinary life story, a devoted patriot, a veteran of the January Uprising, an emigrant, and at the same time a philhellene and honorary citizen of Greece. His achievements in the fight against the Russian invader, his wanderings as an emigrant, and his contribution to the building of the Greek state are quite well known, mainly thanks to his memoirs, stored in the Jagiellonian Library in Krakow, some of which were published in 1971 under the title *Z Tajgi pod Akropol* (From the Taiga to the Acropolis). Thanks to publications by Polish and Greek archaeologists, Mineyko's achievements in the field of archaeology are also well known, in particular his participation in research at the famous sanctuary of Zeus in Dodona, located in Epirus.

Zygmunt Mineyko was also interested in numismatics, and this interest was far from superficial. He wrote a work devoted to what he called “the manifestations of numismatics”, which, unfortunately, was never published. The manuscript of this work, currently stored in Lviv, in the former collections of the Ossoliński National Institute, allows us to consider it a very modern and ahead-of-its-time study. Zygmunt Mineyko is also closely associated with the history of the numismatic collections of the National Museum in Krakow. In 1924 and 1926, almost a hundred ancient coins donated by Stanisław Mineyko (1875–1924), Zygmunt's son, were added in two tranches to the collection of the National Museum in Krakow. Although Stanisław was formally the donor, it was most likely his father who inspired the donation, as he had successfully implemented the idea of enriching Polish scientific institutions and museums with collections of ancient coins. Such donations were or were to be donated to the National Museum in Warsaw, Vilnius University, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, and, as mentioned, the National Museum in Krakow. We would like to dedicate this volume to the memory of Zygmunt and Stanisław Mineyko.

The Editors

CHRISTOPHER HOWGEGO

Roman Provincial Coinage. Vol. IV.4: *Antoninus Pius to Commodus (AD 138–192)*. *Egypt*. Part 1: *Introduction and Catalogue*. Part 2: *Indexes and Plates*, British Museum Press, Bibliothèque nationale de France, London–Paris 2023, 828 pages, 252 plates, 8 maps; ISBN 978-0714118307

This publication is the next part in the *Roman Provincial Coinage* series, devoted to provincial coinage in Egypt during the reigns of Antoninus Pius (138–161), Marcus Aurelius (161–180), Lucius Verus (161–169) and Commodus (177–192). It is the first volume to address coin production in the Roman provinces during this period. However, individual issues from various centres are also available online in the database on the project website.¹ The author of this publication is currently one of the most distinguished specialists in provincial coinage.²

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The series is part of the international Roman Provincial Coinage project, which aims to create a database of provincial coins struck in individual cities during the Roman period. The project is based on materials from the world's most important numismatic collections (e.g. the Ashmolean Museum, the American Numismatic Society, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, etc.), as well as published catalogues and data from online auctions.

The reviewed publication consists of two parts. The first volume contains an introduction and a catalogue, while the second ones, indexes and tables with illustrations of coins. Due to the subject matter and the continuity of the series, the layout of the book remains similar to previous volumes.

The first volume begins with a preface containing key information about the project, the issues addressed, specific aspects of coinage and the collections analysed that are held in various institutions. This is followed by acknowledgements and a list of abbreviations relating to the collections and bibliography referred to in the catalogue. The general introduction consists of five chapters devoted to characteristic of Egyptian coinage, production, images and legends on the obverses and reverses and the special relationship between Alexandria and Rome.

¹ Roman Provincial Coinage online: <http://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/>.

² Cf. HOWGEGO 1994; IDEM 2005a; IDEM 2005b.

“Egypt had some kind of special status.” This sentence begins the first chapter of the introduction (pp. 1–8). Egypt has always been unique and continues to attract enormous interest. The author begins by highlighting the situation and administration of the province during the Roman period and the role of Alexandria, an important port and Egypt’s main mint. He points to the city’s significance as a centre of trade, science, art and culture. Unlike other Roman provinces, Egypt had a closed currency system, dating back to the Ptolemaic period. This system remained in place until the reforms of Diocletian. The imperial silver denarius and other silver provincial coins never circulated in Egypt. The author draws attention to the limited number of sources that could help to reconstruct the functioning of this system more fully, and presents possible interpretations of its operation. Another issue discussed is the characteristics of coins struck in Egypt. The author briefly analyses some coins, chronology, iconography, the position and significance of the mint, as well as sources of bullion used for coinage in Egypt. A separate subsection is devoted to the issues of circulation, coin use and monetization, discussing publications on coin finds and other sources of information, such as papyri. The aspect of gold coins, their finds and the significance of “being used as a store of wealth rather than a circulating medium” (p. 6) are discussed separately. However, the author emphasizes at the end: “new evidence could change the picture” (p. 8).

The second chapter is devoted to monetary production (pp. 9–36). The author discusses the reforms carried out in the mint during the reigns of Marcus Aurelius and Commodus. Compared to other provincial mints, Alexandria, due to the specific situation in Egypt, struck coins much more regularly. The personification of *Moneta* on coins in AD 162/163 may suggest a reorganization or relocation of the mint. Not only provincial coins were struck in Alexandria, but also imperial ones. The author also mentions the division of the organisation of silver and bronze production. Another issue relates to production aspects, the placement of images on individual coins and the reuse of dies. A separate chapter is devoted to denominations where weight differences are noticeable. Despite the discrepancies, the author proposes their possible identification, referring to individual denominations as hemiobol (AE 12), obol (AE 17), diobol (AE 23), hemidrachm (AE 27) and drachm (AE 33). In this context, the theory of Blouin and Burnett was also cited.³ A separate subsection concerns metrology, accompanied by graphs for individual denominations in the analysed period. In several cases, a decline of weights is visible. The analysis also covers metallurgical aspects. The author cites the results of tetradrachm tests, indicating that, depending on the period, the silver content in coins ranged from 4 to

³ BLOUIN and BURNETT 2020: 246, 257, 271.

20%.⁴ An interesting aspect remains the acquisition of bullion for coin production. In the case of quantification of production, it is not yet possible to determine it fully due to a lack of sufficient research and publications. The author takes into account the issue of hoards, as well as the presence of coins with reduced silver content in them (p. 24). The final part of the chapter is devoted to the relationship between the coinage in Egypt, the Roman economy, and the Antonine Plague in the 60s of the 2nd century. The aforementioned epidemic did not have a direct impact on the decline in the silver content of coins, as this phenomenon began several years before the plague reached Egypt. The changes in AD 162/163 may, however, be related to the reorganization of the mint and preparations for the Parthian War (p. 29). The author looks at this issue in a broader context, taking into account interruptions in production both locally and in other areas, while considering possible reasons.

The next chapter is devoted to portraits of emperors and members of their families placed on the obverse of coins, as well as the accompanying titles (pp. 37–57). The author provides a list of legends on tetradrachms and bronze coins, linked to specific years of issue. He analyses them in the context of various historical events and references to imperial coins. A separate, short subchapter is devoted to Avidius Cassius, a Roman general and usurper in the East in AD 175. The author emphasizes his family ties with Egypt and cites information about the prefect's edict ordering the people to rejoice at his accession. Despite this, there are no coins today referring to his short, three-month reign. In this chapter, the author also focuses on the types of portraits, their variations and connections with coins struck in Rome. Interestingly, it seems that the radiate crown on the AE 27 became a marker of the denomination in the Antonine period (p. 51). In the case of provincial coins minted in different cities, the presence of this type of element on coins of various sizes rather rules out this possibility. The last subchapter addresses the following question: were reverse types tailored to members of the imperial family on the obverses?

The fourth chapter analyses the remaining images and legends found on coins, primarily related to Egyptian tradition and cult (pp. 58–103). However, compared to provincial coins struck in other cities, there are no references to local mythology or games. The personification of the province appears on imperial coins, but not on coins minted in Roman Egypt. On the other hand, the image of Alexandria, as the personification of the city, was very often placed on coins. The author devotes a separate subchapter to Egyptian and Graeco-Roman-style iconography and their identification. He discusses the legends accompanying various images, as well as the sets of coin types associated with the political program. Coins of this type were

⁴ HOWGEGO et AL. 2013.

issued during the reigns of Nero (54–68), Domitian (81–96), Trajan (98–117) and Hadrian (117–138). For the Antonine period, the author distinguishes several sets, including the labours of Heracles, busts of the gods, temples, zodiac and nomes (pp. 61–65). Coins minted in Alexandria also feature references to Greek mythology. Some images may have been modelled on paintings, mosaics or sculptures. In addition, the author analyses motifs such as the phoenix, Ares or Alexander (?), Aphrodite ΔΥΝΑΜΙΣ, the banquet of the gods, the bust of Sarapis on a foot and sacred boats. Separate references are made to animals, personifications and architecture in relation to their meaning and worship. “The most remarkable architectural innovation on the coinage in the Antonine period was the structure associated with a figure of Moneta on AE 33 in AD 162/3.” (p. 81). This is unique motif for provincial coinage. In the following subchapters, the author focuses on motifs related to the emperor, images of power, wars and diplomacy, hunting, imperial anniversaries, religious rituals and visits. Commodus and his connection with Alexandria, as well as corn supply to Rome through new and innovative coin types, are discussed separately. The discussion concludes with a reference to emperors and the divine, referencing to the miraculous events and religious connection of Commodus and Heracles, which are reflected on Egyptian coins.

The last chapter is devoted to the special relationship between Alexandria and Rome (pp. 104–112). It is an interesting analysis of the interdependence of both mints, which also emphasizes the importance of Alexandria. Individual issues also appeared in previous chapters, but here they are presented in a broader context. The author begins with an analysis of iconography, including divine qualities, sets, imperial anniversaries, millennial imagery and mythology, summarizing various modes of interpretation. A separate subsection is devoted to imperial messaging and copying from Rome. In this context, the author refers to specific examples, comparing images of coins struck in Egypt with imperial coins and medallions from the same period. According to the author, it “was the creation of Roman-style types not known to have been used at Rome itself.” (p. 109). He then examines the hypothesis of possible deliberate propaganda created on provincial coins. He draws attention to the presence of the aforementioned elements, such as the radiate crown, as well as the denomination structure. Later, he refers to the importance of Alexandria and the Egyptomania present in the Roman Empire. Despite these connections, Egyptian coinage largely did not follow Rome. “Alexandria was a provincial rather than an imperial mint (...)” (p. 112). This should be borne in mind, given its atypical relationship with Rome compared to other provincial mints.

The catalogue is preceded by an introduction referring to the information and markings contained therein. The catalogue contains a list of 3,579 types, compiled on the basis of 19,127 coins. In the online database, which takes into account new coin finds that are constantly appearing, the number of types has already increased to 3,589. In terms of its layout, the catalogue follows the pattern familiar from previous volumes. The individual coin types are arranged chronologically and by denomination.

The second volume contains indexes covering cities (in this case, only Alexandria), people from the imperial family, kings and rulers, coinage without imperial portraits, legends, names and titles, personal names, types and countermarks. The rest of the volume contains tables with approximately 4,000 illustrations of coins. Due to publication limitations in this regard, it is also worth referring to the project's online database, which offers a wider selection of figures from various collections and online auctions, with new items added on an ongoing basis, as far as possible. Thus, the paper version of the publication, in terms of the analysis of individual aspects of coinage, and the constantly updated database complement each other.

Each subsequent volume of the *Roman Provincial Coinage* series is an important source of information on provincial coinage in a given period, which in turn provides a basis for further, more detailed research. Volume IV.4, devoted to Egyptian coins from the Antonine period, is the first publication covering this period. Provincial coinage from AD 138–192 is among the most extensive, which partly explains the long wait for subsequent volumes. Nevertheless, issues from various regions remain available online as part of the project's internet database. The individual analyses contained in the publication are general in nature, but they perfectly summarize the entirety of Egyptian coinage during the reign of the Antonines. The structure of the publication is clear and legible, which makes it easy to use for both researchers and collectors. It is worth noting that this volume is another significant contribution to the comprehensive study of Roman provincial coinage.

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