

## TECELATOR®

Vol. 26, No. 2, February 2012



• HALF-FIGURE OF THE KING: UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES OF THE EARLIEST SIGLOI OF DARIUS I

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Publisher/Editor
Kerry K. Wetterstrom
Kerry@celator.com

Associate Editors Robert L. Black Michael R. Mehalick

For Back Issues From 1987 to May 1999 contact: Wayne Sayles wgs@wgs.cc

Art: Parnell Nelson

Maps & Graphic Art: Kenny Grady

P.O. Box 10607 Lancaster, PA 17605 Tel/Fax: 717-656-8557 (Office Hours: Noon to 6PM) For FedEx & UPS deliveries: Kerry K. Wetterstrom

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About the cover: Image of a half-figure siglos of Darius I (courtesy of Pars Coins), and other assorted images from this month's featured article, which begins on page 6 (please see article for image credits).

The Celator office will be closed on March 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Check the "On the Road" section (p. 53) for further details. Office hours are normally Noon to 6PM EST. Please keep in mind that this is a one-person business when you're trying to reach me. Thank you!



## EDITOR'S NOTE

"It was speculated that

the Akragas dekadrachm

would set a new record for a

Greek coin, but this was not

the case. That honor went to

lot 213 in The New York Sale

Auction XXVII, the amazing

gold stater of Pantikapaion,

which had a pre-sale esti-

mate of \$650,000 and real-

ized \$3,802,500."

The New York International Numismatic Conven-

tion (NYINC) was once again held during the first week of January at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, and I was fortunate enough to attend for the 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive time. The NYINC and the summer ANA conventions are the only two coin conventions that I can claim uninterrupted attendance at since 1983.

This year's NYINC was very similar to the last few conventions: the market is still hot, especially for high-grade and rare Greek coinage; every auction held in conjunction with the

convention reported superb results; and the bourse was crowded with collectors and dealers once the actual coin show started on Thursday afternoon.

There was one thing slightly different, though, at this year's NY-INC-the U.S. government made an appearance on Tuesday at the lot viewing for the joint Nomos AG/

CNG, Inc. auction and seized two coins, as well as detaining one of the principals of Nomos AG, Dr. Peter Weiss. The atmosphere of the show was certainly more subdued after this event, partly because of the uncertainty of what had actually occurred. Dr. Weiss, on the advice of counsel, did not return to the convention, and the U.S. government was not forthcoming with any details.

The following week the New York County District Attorney's office released a copy of the criminal complaint, where it was alleged that Dr. Weiss "knew that coin 1009 (lot 1009 in the auction—a tetradrachm of Katane estimated at \$300,000) was 'freshly dug,' and that, therefore, it



had to be the property of the Italian government."

The complaint did not make any mention of lot 1008, the Akragas de-kadrachm, with a pre-sale estimate of \$2.5 million, and destined to be one of the highlights of the auction. As this issue goes to press, I have still not read or heard anything about why this coin was also confiscated. It was speculated that the Akragas dekadrachm would set a new record for a Greek coin, but

this was not the case. That honor went to lot 213 in The New York Sale Auction XXVII, the amazing gold stater of Pantikapaion, which had a pre-sale estimate of \$650,000 and realized \$3,802,500.

If it turns out that the government seized the Akragas dekadrachm without any cause or justification, then per-

haps a lawsuit would be in order. In any event, this incident certainly places the entire ancient coin collecting community on notice that the U.S. government is watching us, and we better make sure that we are compliant with all current laws.

As an aside to the above comments, please read Wayne Sayles' column this month for his views on the challenges facing our hobby, and one possible solution: self-regulation.

Back to the NYINC. Overall, it was another enjoyable and successful convention, and I certainly enjoyed talking with my numismatic friends, both old and new! Mark your calendars now for next year's convention to be held from January 10-13, 2013.

## COMING NEXT MONTH IN THE CELATOR®

A "New" Bronze of Antigonos Gonatas by Walter C. Holt, M.A. Demeter's Torch & The Mysteries of Eleusis by George L. Beke

#### AND COMING SOON

From the Shekel Hakodesh to the Shekel of Israel by Gary M. Fine

Pythagoras and the Incuse Coins of Magna Graecia by John Francisco

Numismatic Evidence of Bishops' Symbols by Gary Waddingham

How to Read the Legends on Coins of the Western Kshatrapas: A Beginner's Guide by Pankaj Tandon

A Unique Civic Seal of Colonia Ptolemais by Adolfo Eidelstein

Astragaloi on Ancient Coins: Game Pieces or Agents of Prophecy? by Bekircan Tahberer

The Ancient City of Philippi, and the 'Eid Mar' Coinage by Marvin Tameanko

Highlights of the Early Byzantine Coins in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston by Donald Squires

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First Punic War Silver Dekadrachm. Very Fine. Realized \$30,680 in our January 2011 NYINC auction.



High Grade Bold Relief Catana Tetradrachm, NGC XF. Realized \$10,030 in our 2011 ANA World's Fair of Money auction.



High Grade Nero Aureus. NGC AU. Realized \$22,420 in our 2011 ANA World's Fair of Money auction.



Exceptional Akanthos Tetradrachm. Choice Extremely Fine. Realized \$14,160 in our



Magnificent High Relief Facing Silenos. NGC Choice XF. Realized \$23,600 in our 2011 ANA World's Fair of Money auction.



High Grade Armenian Victory Gold Aureus of Lucius Verus. NGC Choice AU. Realized \$15,930 in our 2011 ANA World's Fair of Money auction.



High Grade Lampsacos Gold Stater. Extremely Fine. Realized \$35,400 in our January 2011 NYINC auction.



Very Rare Cretan Drachm Depicting the Labyrinth of the Minotaur. Nearly Extremely Fine. Realized \$26,550 in our 2011 ANA World's Fair of Money auction.

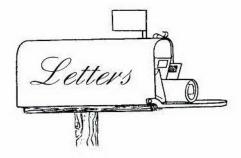


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### An Apology

My pleasure at having my sceatta article published in The Celator (Vol. 25, No. 11) in November 2011 has been tainted by a breach of protocol on my behalf. Inexcusably, I inadvertently selected the images of my own coins. shown as Figures 1 and 2, not from my own photographic folders but, by careless use of the search facility, from a folder of images supplied to me by Antony Wilson of York Coins, New York, specifically and only to illustrate the 'Beowulf' collection, which I published in Studies in Early Medieval Coinage, Volume 1 (Boydell & Brewer, 2008). I acquired the sceats illustrated and many others from CNG's auction of the 'Beowulf' collection on 23rd May 2007 (CNG Auction 75).

I owe Antony Wilson my sincere apologies. Protocol dictates that permission for the use of images should have been obtained beforehand and clearly credited.

Tony Abramson



Æ of Constantius II that depicts a cross on the emperor's banner on the reverse.

## Coin of Constantius II Depicts the Cross

I have read with great interest David Hendin's article in the September 2011 issue of *The Celator*, with its discussion of the use of Christian symbols on the coinage issued under Constantine the Great and the emperors who followed him. The cross, to be sure, was a troubling symbol for those who lived under Constantine, as it was, as I understand, during his reign that the use of that form of execution was finally abolished.

I have in my possession a coin of Constantine's son, Constantius II, produced at the Antioch mint, depicting on the reverse Constantius II standing with two bound captives sitting at his feet. He is holding a banner clearly showing a cross. Constantius ruled from 337-361, and his father took office in 307. It is likely that many holding this coin were over the age of forty, and thus probably had witnessed—and remembered—instances of crucifixions, which were carried out in public.

This excellent product of the Antioch mint is a wonderful example of late classical art, but it carries a distinctly creepy overtone. The thought that some of those who carried this coin in their pockets had seen first-hand the physical horror of crucifixion lends an unsettling dimension of discomfort to such an early depiction of the cross. Add to this the fact that it is shown on

a banner that was likely carried into war, and it becomes clear that this is a coin, as beautiful as it is, best appreciated in the full light of day, and not contemplated too close to bedtime.

Sherry Briggs Needham, MA (Boston Metro West)

## A Menorah Coin With No Menorah?

With only some 40 specimens known, it is quite an experience as an avid collector of ancient Jewish and Biblical coins to actually be able to hold in one's hand the most valuable piece of copper in the world, a tiny somewhat crudely made and stamped two-gram piece of 2,000-year-old copper or bronze which sells for up to U.S. \$50,000 or more.

The coin in question is the famous "Menorah" coin, the tiny prutot issued by Mattathias Antigonus, the last of the Hasmonean Kings/High Priests of Judaea who ruled from 40-37 BCE.

Meshorer speculated, probably correctly, that the coin was issued in the last months if not weeks of Antigonus' reign before his defeat in 37 BCE by Herod I, aided by the Roman general C. Sossius. (Herod, with Octavian's support, had been declared King of Judaea by the Roman Senate in 40 BCE.)

Mattatayah (to use his Hebrew name) was the youngest son of Judas Aristobulus II, and had come to power in 40 BCE after bribing the Parthians, then ruled by Orodes II, to invade Jerusalem, which was held at the time by John Hyrcanus II (Mattatayah's uncle). The coup was successful and Mattatayah became both King and High Priest, having deposed—and it is claimed—having mutilated Hyrcanus.

Mattatayah's three-year reign in Jerusalem was in effect three years of rebellion against the might of Rome, and its end was as certain as it was predictable, especially after the death of the Parthian Orodes, with Rome and its puppet Herod triumphant. However, during his three years, Mattatayah

Please turn to page 38 ....





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# HALF-FIGURE OF THE KING: UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES OF THE EARLIEST SIGLOI OF DARIUS I

## by William E. Daehn

#### Introduction

The Persian silver siglos is one of the most well-known coins of the ancient world. Minted in large quantities over a period of nearly two hundred years, thousands of these "archers" survive and at least one can be found in most collections of ancient Greek coins.

Most familiar to collectors are the sigloi bearing a full-figure of the Persian king in a kneeling/running position, either holding a bow in front of him, holding a spear across his body, or holding a dagger behind him. Of particular interest is the scarce variety bearing only a half-figure of the king. When an example of this type appears at auction, it is almost always described as "rare."

This half-figure type raises several questions: Where do they fall in the siglos series? Why was the king shown as a half-figure? And just how rare are these coins? But before delving into the numismatic details, it will be helpful to review the history of the Persian Empire during the period of this coinage.

#### The Persian Empire

The Persian kings, known as the Achaemenids, brought together the

nations of the ancient Middle East, including Media and Assyria, into a single political unit—the Persian Empire. The "Achaemenids" were the line of ancestors, possibly fictional, which Darius and his descendants used to explain their noble lineage. At its peak, the empire stretched from its eastern border, India. to its western border, the Mediterranean Sea. Persian royal inscriptions provide lists of the lands and peoples of the empire, and thirty-one different peoples appear on the lists at one time or another.1 Although Asia Minor, Egypt, Babylonia, Bactria, and Persia proper continued to be distinguished by their different cultures, languages, and religions, the Achaemenids created one political

structure to unify these populations.

The imperial structure was created by Cyrus the Great who assumed the throne as a vassal of the Median king Astyages in 559 BC. Cyrus overthrew Astyages in 550 and this marks the beginning of the Persian Empire.

Cyrus extended Persian control to all the land between Bactria and Phrygia. In 547, he defeated the forces of Croesus and took control of the King-

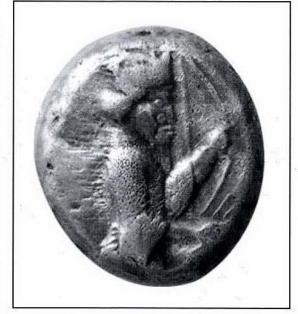


Figure 1-Obverse of a half-figure siglos. Photo courtesy of Pars Coins.

dom of Lydia in western Asia Minor. And in 538 he took control of Babylonia, thus gaining access to the territory of Phoenicia and its Mediterranean ports. Cyrus' reign ended when he was killed in battle in 530. His son and successor, Cambyses II, continued the expansion of the empire by absorbing Egypt in 525, causing Libya and Cyrene to also surrender.

Upon Cambyses II's death in 522, Darius assumed the throne. The circumstances of his ascension to the throne are uncertain and controversial. What is clear is that this was a time of great rebellions in the empire. Some historians maintain that Darius was a usurper, and Darius himself felt the need to explain his rise to power in the well-known Behistun relief and inscription, which was carved, into a rock cliff early in his reign. The inscription, 300 feet above the main caravan route from Ecbatana to Babylon, near the village of Behistun, proclaims Darius' version of how he came to power.2

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Darius was the son of Hystaspes, a Persian said to be of noble lineage. Under Darius, Persian territory reached its peak. His military achievements included conquests of the Getai and Scythian tribes in Thrace (513) and his suppression of the Ionian Revolt (500-493). Most famously, the Persians under Darius invaded Europe but suffered defeat at the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC.

Nonetheless, by the end of Darius' reign, the Great King had achieved much. Among his accomplishments was the building of the 1600-mile long Royal Road connecting Susa (in modern-day Iran) to Sardis (in Lydia, modern-day western Turkey). Darius developed a courier system with horses to deliver mail between Susa and Sardis in just seven days. And under Darius, parts of the great city of Persepolis were built, including the Apadana (large audience hall) and sections of the Treasury. Darius also created an early version of the Suez Canal, connecting the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.

During Darius' reign, the Persian Kingdom was ruled and administered from five part-time capitals: Susa, Pasargadae, Ecbatana, Babylon, and Persepolis. In addition, Sardis became the chief center of Persian administration for western Asia Minor.

The most celebrated of the Persian kings, Darius died peacefully in 486 at age 64, and was entombed at Persepolis. He was succeeded by his son Xerxes.

Xerxes is best remembered for his invasion of Greece in 480 BC, and the defeat of his navy at the Battle of Salamis. The defeat again stymied Persian ambitions of controlling Greek lands. Xerxes was murdered in 465.

The Persian Empire endured for another 135 years under a series of lesser kings (Artaxerxes I, Darius II, Artaxerxes II, Artaxerxes III, Arses, and Darius III), none of whom matched the administrative skills or military might of Darius I. Achaemenid rule finally ended when Alexander the Great conquered the great empire and burned Persepolis in 330 BC, after which the Persian Empire was absorbed into Alexander's realm.

#### A Precursor to the **Imperial Coinage**

Coinage was not commonly used in Persian society during the early period of the empire. Rather, the economy largely functioned on barter and precious metals exchanged by weight. However, the Persians were familiar with the coins of the Kingdom of Lydia where the use of coinage was well established. The gold and silver coins with the confronted lion & bull, struck by King Croesus of Lydia, were minted at Sardis and were popular in western Asia Minor.3 Opinions differ on whether these "Croesids" continued to be struck during the reigns of the early Persian kings, or if the Sardis mint was forced to close upon Cyrus' conquest of the Lydian Kingdom.

In his 1877 study, Barclay Head stated, "It is possible, and even probable...that no change was at first made in the arrangements of the Sardian mint, and that both gold and silver money was put into circulation from time to time as necessity required" (using the old Croesid dies). "For it was not part of the policy of Cyrus to introduce uncalled for changes in the internal government of the various

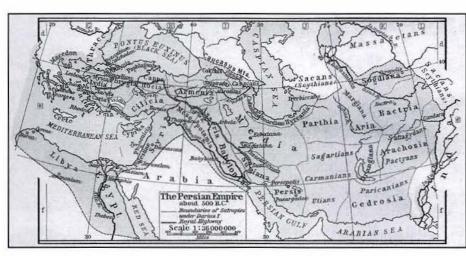
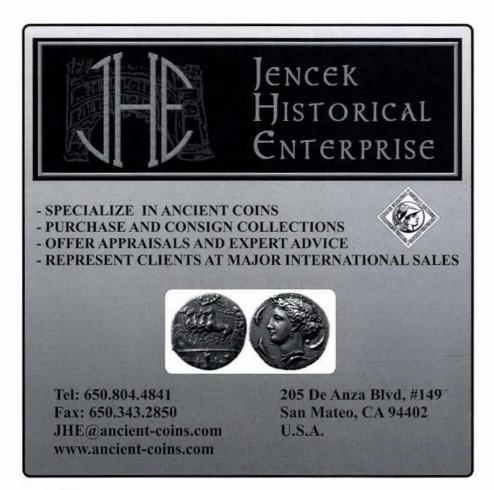


Figure 2-The Persian Empire about 500 BC (from W. R. Sheperd, The Historical Atlas, 1923).





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- Baldwin's/M&M Numismatics/Dmitry Markov: The New York Sale on Wednesday & Thursday, Jan. 9-10
- · Stack's-Bowers and Ponterio: Friday & Saturday, Jan. 11-12
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Visit our website, www.nyinc.info, for a complete Schedule of Events, including auction lot viewing, auction sessions, educational programs, and more! conquered States which contributed to form the vast Empire of Persia."4

Ernest Babelon expressed a different opinion in 1893. He maintained that the lion & bull types were all struck by Croesus prior to the conquest of Lydia by Cyrus. Perhaps Babelon's opinion had an influence on Head. When writing the second edition of his masterpiece Historia Numorum, Head changed his opinion. He now believed the Sardis mint remained closed after the fall of Croesus "for it is hardly likely that either Cyrus or Cambyses would have allowed it to continue the issue of the Croesean gold staters after the Persian conquest."

Furthermore, instituting an Imperial coinage was not high on Darius'

priority list. As Head explained, during the first five years of Darius' reign, the king was occupied in suppressing rebellions in various parts of the empire. Therefore, it was probably not until 516 or later that he found time to focus on the civic organization of his empire.

#### The First Imperial Coinage

After the division of the empire into satrapies, Darius imposed a tribute on each satrapy, which was to be paid into the royal treasury. Head believed it was the assessment of this tribute that led to a monetary reform and the institution of the first Persian Imperial coinage—the gold daries and silver sigloi.

The sigloi were struck on the weight standard used by Croesus for his silver coinage and weighed about 5.35 gm. Darius' gold darics, however, were introduced on a slightly heavier standard of 8.4 gm (vs. 8.1 gm for the Croesid gold). The value ratio was 20 sigloi = 1 daric, and the



Figure 3-Lion & bull half-stater. Photo by the author.

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Malzgasse 25 Postfach CH-4002 Basel, Switzerland Telephone: (011) 41 61 272 75 44 • Fax: (011) 41 61 272 75 14 purity level of the sigloi are normally 97-98% (but some are as low as 94%).

A new Imperial coinage meant the introduction of a bold new design, and the image of the Great King was chosen. The new coinage was minted at Sardis where the Lydian coinage had been struck. As Head pointed out, "skilled die-sinkers and moneyers would be more easily obtainable there than anywhere else in the Persian Empire."

During its long period of minting, four distinct types were used on the silver sigloi: a full-figure of the king kneeling/running while shooting a bow, a full-figure of the king holding a bow and a spear, a full-figure of the king holding a bow with a dagger behind, and a half-figure of the king holding a bow in his left hand and two arrows in his right hand. The half-figure type was used only on the sigloi. The other three types appeared on both the sigloi and the gold darics. The rarity of the half-figure siglos suggests it had a very short period of mintage.

Determining the sequence of issues became the focus of numismatists studying the royal coinage. But with few typological changes throughout the long period of minting, and no inscriptions on the coins, the royal archer coins were difficult to date with any precision. A misinterpretation of hoard evidence caused early researchers to assign the half-figure coins to a late date. In his 1893 study, Ernest Babelon placed them at the end of the series and assigned them to Artaxerxes III (359-338).9

G. F. Hill next explored the series in his "Notes on Imperial Persian Coinage" (1919). Hill found the sequence of issues to be unclear. In fact, he questioned whether the various types represented successive issues or simply "local differences of workmanship." He distinguished at least fifteen subtle variations of the four major types.

Following Babelon, Hill stated that the bowman and the half-figure types are "unrepresented in the finds of early sigloi" and therefore belong to the later period of the coinage. The hoard evidence led Hill to also place the half-figure type as the last style and he assigned it to the fourth century BC as well.

After the discovery of a new hoard, E. S. G. Robinson had more coins to study than did Babelon or Hill. In "A Hoard of Persian Sigloi" (1947), he documented sixteen pieces with the half-figure. The wear exhibited by the coins suggested that the half-figure and the





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bowman types were earlier than the bow & spear type. But Robinson could draw no conclusion as to whether the halffigure or the bowman type came first.

In 1956, Sydney Noe added some clarity after studying the weights of two large groups of sigloi that had recently appeared on the market. He showed that

two different weight standards had been used for the sigloi, which he documented through the use of a frequency table of weights. 11 One of the hoards studied by Noe included 53 sigloi with the half-figure (the American Numismatic Society acquired twelve of these). Noe found that both the half-figure type and the

bowman type were struck on the light Croesid standard of 5.35 gm, while the bow & spear and bow & dagger types were struck on a heavier 5.55 gm standard. This made it clear that the half-figure and bowman types closely followed the minting of Croesids. However, Noe placed the half-figure coins af-

ter those with the bowman.

Noe recognized that the 53 coins he examined, the 16 coins examined earlier by Robinson, and 29 coins recently described by Henri Seyrig<sup>12</sup> likely belonged to the same find. This hoard (No. 1178 in An Inventory of Greek Coin Hoards) is known as the Cal dag hoard, and is believed to have been found near the site of ancient Sardis in 1945 or earlier (likely buried ca. 470 BC). In total, the hoard contained at least 98 half-figure sigloi.

In 1958, Robinson reconsidered the sequence of issues. <sup>13</sup> He cited the Bairakli hoard (*IGCH* 1166), found in Turkey in 1951, which included one sigloi with the half-figure and three with the bowman type.

The hoard was dated to the very early fifth century BC, but no coins of the bow & spear type were included. He was now confident that the half-figure and bowman coins were early types, and wear patterns exhibited on the hoard coins convinced Robinson that the half-figure type was the earliest.

The order of issues was now secure: the half-figure of the king (hereafter referred to as Type I) was the first to be struck, followed by the full-figure king drawing a bow (Type II), the full-figure king holding the bow with a spear across his body (Type III), and finally the full-figure king holding the bow in his left hand and a dagger behind his body in his right hand (Type IV).

Now the date of the introduction of the siglos series became the focus of debate. Head's view that the Persians would not have continued the Lydian lion & bull types had remained largely unchallenged. But in 1985, Michael Vickers argued that all of the lion & bull coins traditionally assigned to Croesus were in fact struck by Darius. Furthermore, Vickers argued that the Type I and II archers were not introduced until the reign of Xerxes. <sup>14</sup>

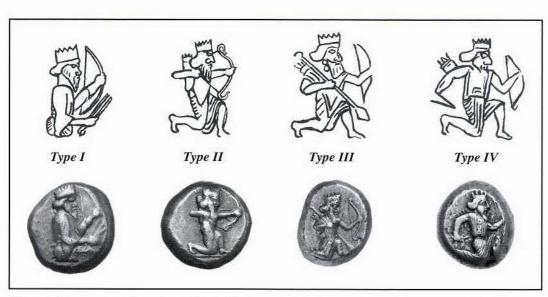


Figure 4—Drawings from Carradice 1987. Coin Types I and II from Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. Type III from CNG Triton VII. Type IV from Ira & Larry Goldberg Coins Auction 59.

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This led to a reassessment of these coinages by Ian Carradice.15 Carradice attempted to refine the dating of the Croesids, sigloi, and daries. He also identified several sub-varieties of the sigloi. He concluded that the Type I siglos probably was introduced under Darius I. Carradice suggested that the Persians needed coinage only when they were in contact with coin-using peoples (mostly Greeks).16 Darius' suppression of the Ionian Revolt and invasion of Greece may have supplied the impetus to initiate the siglos coinage, and he suggested that mintage began ca. 500-485 BC.

In Carradice's view, the siglos Types II and IIIa (those struck on the 5.35 gm standard) probably were also struck under Darius, with Type IIIb (those struck on the 5.55 gm standard) being introduced in the 480s, and Type IV by 450. In his view, Types IIIb and IV likely were struck by a variety of mints in the fifth and fourth centuries BC. (Colin Kraay agrees that a second mint, perhaps in southern or southwestern Asia Minor, may have been involved in striking the Type IV coins).<sup>17</sup>

Then in 1988, Margaret Cool Root published a paper in which she refut-

ed Vicker's down-dating of the lion & bull coins to the reign of Darius. She showed that a clay tablet found during excavations at Persepolis con-



Figure 5–A Type II siglos was used twice as a seal on this clay tablet found at the Persian capital of Persepolis, dated to 500 BC. Photo by M. B. Carrison, printed in Root 1989, p. 37.

tains text firmly dating the tablet to year 22 of the reign of King Darius (500 BC). And a Type II siglos was used to make the seal impressions on the tablet. This proved that Type II sigloi were in use by 500 BC.

Péter Vargyas pushed the date even further back. <sup>18</sup> Vargyas asked—if the siglos and daric were introduced as part of Darius' monetary reform, why were no gold darics struck with the Type I design? And why did Darius find it necessary to change from Type I to Type II after only a short period of minting? Perhaps the introduction of the siglos was not part of Darius' monetary reform. Perhaps it served another purpose.

Vargyas turned to the study of sixth century BC cuneiform tablets. A common expression found in the tablets is kaspu ginnu. It is clear that the term refers to some type of silver that is protected by the king and is not to be destroyed. Vargyas interpreted kaspu ginnu to mean "legal silver" and concluded it can only refer to the sigloi.<sup>19</sup>

There is only one reference to kaspu ginnu in tablets from the reign of Cyrus (which likely refers to the Croesid coinage), and no reference during the reign of Cambyses. Mentions of kaspu ginnu multiply starting in the first years of Darius' reign.<sup>20</sup> These facts lead to the conclusion that the Sardis mint did in fact cease coinage production upon Cyrus' conquest of the Kingdom of Lydia, just as Barclay Head surmised a century earlier.

Vargyas showed that a text which must be dated before December 521 refers to kaspu ginnu—Darius' sigloi. Consequently, the first sigloi were struck in or before 521-during the period of great rebellions and a struggle for power. If Darius was indeed a usurper rather than the rightful noble inheritor of the throne, the need for propagandistic messages is understandable, and Vargyas concluded the Type I archer was introduced primarily for military and propagandistic purposes at the beginning of Darius' reign. The main use of the sigloi was to pay Darius' soldiers, and the bold image of the king was a way of proclaiming to the troops "Darius is the legitimate king."

Only later, when Darius had time to reorganize the empire, did he reform the monetary system (as Head surmised), by introducing the new heavier gold daric and the Type II siglos with a type matching that of the daric.

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In 1998, Ian Carradice published a new hoard of 303 coins that appeared on the market.<sup>21</sup> The group was composed of lion & bull issues and Per-



Figure 6—Procession with King in his chariot, on a 4-shekel coin of Sidon, ca. 380 BC. Photo from CNG Triton V. lot 1511.

sian archers of Types I (six specimens), II, and IIIa. The hoard confirmed that the half-figure siglos "was definitely the smallest/most short-lived of the early phases" of Persian coinage and the hoard evidence confirmed the accepted sequence of issues.

Then in 2002, a discovery was made that should put to rest the debate over the minting of the lion & bull coinage. Antigoni Zournatzi revealed that two early Croesid fractions were discovered in a sealed destruction layer associated with the Persian capture of Sardis.<sup>22</sup> The coins (*IGCH* 1789) confirmed that the lion & bull types could not have been the invention of Darius.

The matter now appears settled: Darius I introduced the Persian siglos for military and propaganda purposes, it happened very early in his reign, and it began with the half-figure type. The



Figure 8-Detail of Darius from the Behistun relief.

gold daric and Type II siglos came later, a product of Darius' monetary reform.

To summarize the current generally accepted chronology of the sigloi:

Type I–Introduced *ca.* 522-521 BC by Darius, minted at Sardis.

Type II–Introduced *ca.* 510-505 BC (the gold daric was introduced at this time as well)

Type IIIa-Introduced ca. 490-480 BC, perhaps in connection with the accession of Xerxes. Two pellets appear behind the king's beard.

Type IIIb-Introduced *ca.* 475 BC, and the weight increased to 5.55 gm. No pellets appear behind the king's beard.

Type IV-Introduced *ca.* 450 BC, and may have been struck at various mints in addition to Sardis.

## The Image of the King: Why the Half-Figure?

To collectors of ancient Greek coins, the half-figure depiction of the king is unusual. Why was this design selected? Martin Price suggested the half-figure echoed the foreparts of the lion & bull on the Lydian coinage. The design may also have been selected because it fit well onto the oval flans. Or it may have been intended to indicate the half-unit denomination of the siglos (which was equivalent to the Persian half-stater). <sup>23</sup> But Price's explanations seem unsatisfactory.

To truly understand the half-figure depiction, we must first examine the image of the king in ancient Persian culture and iconography.

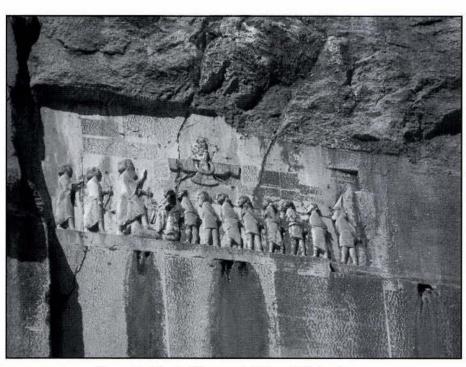
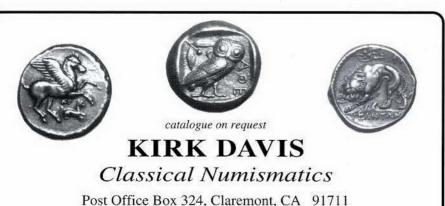


Figure 7-The Behistun relief. From Wikipedia.org.





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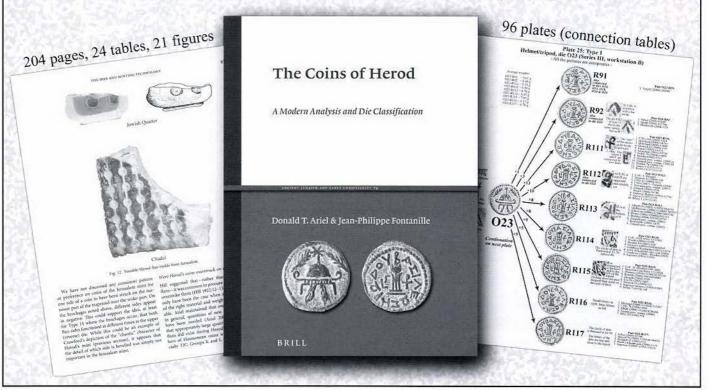


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Darius never allowed his subjects to see him as less than all-powerful. In sculptural reliefs, the king was depicted larger than other men. And the king's public functions were always conducted with great pomp and for-

Therefore, Margaret Root suggested the half-figure is an image derived from scenes of life showing the king in state processions and ceremonials within his chariot.24 The half-length view was probably the typical, characteristic view of the king from the perspective of the Persian people. The scene is familiar to numismatists from the shekels of Sidon. This reduction of the king to a half-figure focuses one's attention on the essentials of the royal persona, including his crown, robe, and insignia of pow-

er—the bow and arrows. Root finds this portrayal very much in keeping with the portrayals of kingship in Achaemenid monumental art, which emphasize the timeless, dignified majesty of the ruler. The Achaemenids became famous for their monumental architecture and sculptural reliefs, and the king is the focus of almost all of these. His depiction is not a portrait of a particular king. Rather, it is "the

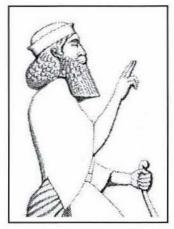


Figure 9-Behistun relief drawing by Eugène Flandin.29

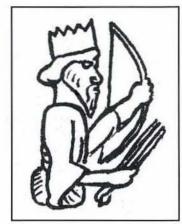


Figure 10-Half-figure of the king from a siglos. Drawing from Carradice 1987.

abstract depiction of kingly glory."25 The goal of the artists was to present the concept of a king who contained within his person and office the welfare of a harmonious and peaceful empire.

The king's depiction on the Type I sigloi bears a notable stylistic affinity to the Behistun relief of Darius (see Figure 7 on page 16), which is safely dated to the beginning of his reign (ca. 520-519). Carved into the southeast

face of Behistun Mountain in western Iran, the relief and accompanying inscription celebrate Darius' rise to power and his early conquests. The 40-foot long relief shows Darius overlooking a group of captured rebel leaders. Note especially the king's candys—a flowing gown-and the positions of his arms (Figures 8 and 9). The sleeves and folds of the candys as shown on the half-figure sigloi mimic those on the Behistun relief (Figure 10).

The inscription accompanying the relief tells

how Darius put down rebellions and saved the empire. In it, Darius is clearly concerned about bolstering his claim to the throne, and his selection as king is ascribed to the divine favor of Ahurmazda.27 It is questionable whether this account of his rise to power was true, but the story he put forward was intended to legitimize his rule in the eyes of his subjects. In the inscription, Darius says that copies of the inscription were sent "everywhere among the provinces."28 It is also likely that copies of the sculptural panel circulated throughout the empire to reinforce this image of the king among the people.

The half-figure sigloi may be another instance of Darius' use of iconography to legitimize his accession to the throne. It would remind people—especially Darius' soldiers—of the Behistun relief and its depiction of Darius' rise to power. The design fits well with Darius' propagandistic goal as described by Vargyas.

Under Vargyas' proposed chronology, the date of the introduction of the half-figure siglos closely coincides with the carving of the Behistun relief. But if this image was a powerful symbol to the Persian people, why did Darius abandon it so soon in favor of the bowman type?

By the time of Type II's introduction (ca. 510 BC), Darius was firmly in power and no longer had a need for propaganda. Now as part of his reform



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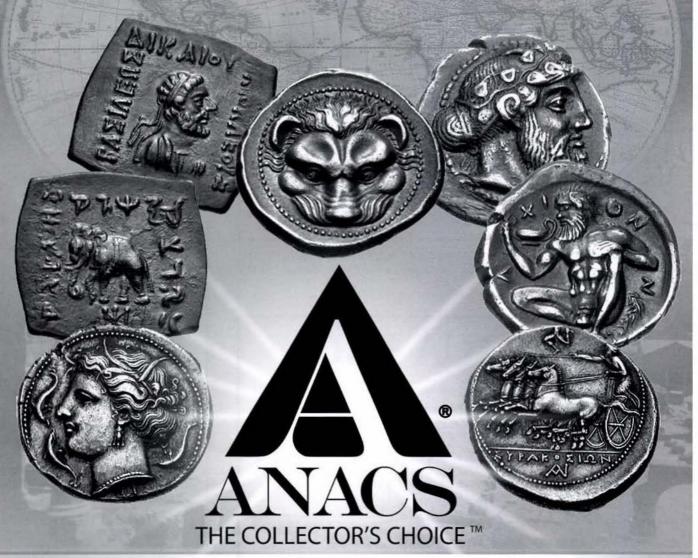
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of the monetary system, the siglos could be redesigned to increase its appeal to the Greek west—the source of mercenaries needed to foster Darius' expansion plans. Root agrees that Type II may have been introduced to appeal to the west—the market that this coinage may have been intended to serve.

So if Darius now intended the siglos to serve a wider economic purpose, a change in design was warranted. Root points out that while the full-figure bowman closely relates to a neo-Assyrian tradition of narrative hunt scenes (Figure 11), it also is similar to the "Herakles shooting" image familiar to the Greeks. A fourth century BC example of this image can be seen on the Thasos tetradrachm in Figure 12.30

Type II therefore represents a deliberate marriage of the Persian tradition of the king as a royal hunter with the Greek tradition of the king as an archetypal western hero. So the coin that started out as a forceful reminder of Darius' legitimacy and glory developed into a utilitarian coin intended to facilitate Darius' ambition to expand his influence and territory into Greece.

This brings us to the question of rarity—just how rare are the Type I sigloi?

#### Rarity

In addition to the hoard evidence cited above, Henri Seyrig briefly described one other group of seven half-figure sigloi. In addition to these documented finds, I have located twelve coins that are known to have been in museum collections prior to the discovery of the Çal dag hoard in 1945. Therefore, the count of half-figure sigloi based on the published hoards and other previously published specimens is summarized below (see page 22).





Figure 11–Darius I shown in a hunting scene on an agate cylinder seal of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. From Roger Pabian, Agates: Treasures of the Earth, Buffalo: Firefly Books, 2006, page 161.

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Figure 12—The Greek hero Herakles, kneeling and shooting a bow, on a tetradrachm from the Greek island of Thasos, ca. mid-fourth century BC. Photo from CNG Auction 85, lot 221.



Figure 13-Type II "bowman" siglos. Photo courtesy of Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.



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Greece Mysia. Lampsakos. El-Stater, 500/450 BC. Extremely fine.

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Greece
Aegyptus. Ptolemaios III., 246–222 BC. Pentekaidekadrachm, Alexandria. Very rare.
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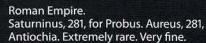








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Published Source	No. of Half Figure Sigloi	Hoard Name & Find Date	Specimen Numbers in the Accompanying Catalogue
Documented prior to 1945	12	n/a	1, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 33-38
Robinson NC 1947	16		
Seyrig's 1st lot 1953	29	Çal dag, ca. 1945 (IGCH 1178)	9, 10, 19-30, 43 (others?)
Noe NNM 136 (1956)	53		
Seyrig's 2 <sup>nd</sup> lot 1953	7	Unknown	?
Robinson NC 1958	1	Bairakli, 1951 (IGCH 1166)	?
Carradice NC 1998	6	Unnamed, ca. 1997	65, 69-73
Minimum extant specimens	124		

Certainly, other specimens resided in both public and private collections prior to 1945. And while some of the hoard specimens found their way into museum collections, most were disbursed into the collector market. Aside from those noted above, I cannot determine whether other coins in the accompanying catalogue (available as a download) originated from one of these documented finds.

While the full number of surviving Type I sigloi may never be known, we can gain a better understanding of the extant population by documenting each known example currently residing in public and private collections.

The search for specimens in the private market included a review of more than 1200 auction catalogues and dealer price lists from the leading dealers and auction houses.<sup>32</sup> Internet searches included V-Coins, Coin Archives, Wildwinds, acsearch.info, and many other websites. The acsearch.info database includes auctions and online

listings from about fifty dealers spanning the past ten years.

The search for specimens in museum collections included most volumes of the Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum series, many other published collections, and specimens illustrated in numismatic and academic journals.

This search turned up just 42 coins in museum collections and 55 coins in private collections and the market-place, for a total of 97 specimens (not including one potential counterfeit).

For the private market coins, it may be of interest to see a summary of market appearances by calendar year (see Table 1 below). For these 55 coins, just 63 market appearances were noted over the course of the last thirty-four years.

The relatively large number of appearances in 1997 may represent additional coins from the find described by Carradice in 1998. The coins appearing in 2006 could be evidence of

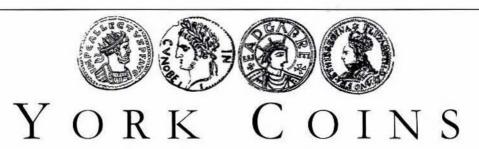
a new, undocumented find. Based on the evidence gathered here, it seems reasonable to estimate that the total of extant specimens is unlikely to exceed 130. With that many specimens, the half-figure siglos is probably not as rare as was previously thought. But with perhaps less than one hundred specimens in private hands, from a collector's perspective, it certainly remains scarce.

#### Dies, Punches, and a Catalogue of Specimens

The author has compiled a catalogue of all ninety-seven specimens known to him, including a listing of each known appearance for each specimen. In addition, a summary of the dies and reverse punches reveals a number of obverse die links, and the fact that just four reverse punches were used for the entire mintage of the half-figure coinage.

Table 1: Market Appearances of Half-Figure Sigloi by Calendar Year

Number of			Number of	Number of			
Year	Appearances	<b>Year</b>	<b>Appearances</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Appearances</b>		
1978	1	1990		2002	1		
1979		1991	2	2003	2		
1980		1992	1,	2004	1		
1981		1993	2	2005	2		
1982	1	1994	5	2006	7		
1983		1995	3	2007	4		
1984		1996	1	2008	1		
1985		1997	6	2009	5		
1986	1	1998	3	2010	3		
1987	1	1999		2011	3		
1988		2000	3				
1989		2001	4				



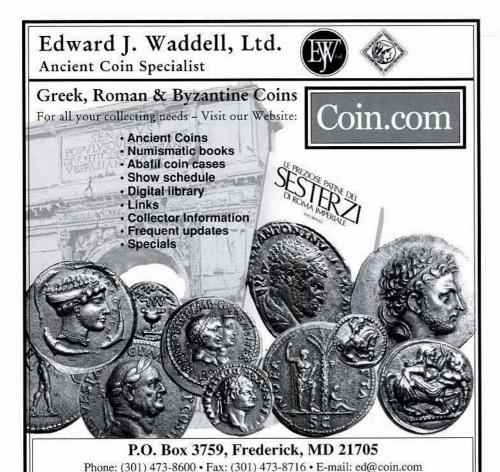
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#### **Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Christopher Tuplin, "The Administration of the Achaemenid Empire," Coinage and Administration in the Athenian and Persian Empires, BAR International Series 343. Edited by Ian Carradice. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports, 1987, p. 113.

<sup>2</sup> Jim Hicks, *The Persians*, Netherlands: Time-Life International, 1976,

pp. 28-33.

<sup>3</sup> The attribution of the lion & bull coins to Croesus originated with E. M. Cousinéry in 1833, and H. P. Borrell in "An Inquiry into the Early Lydian Money, and an Attempt to Fix the Classification of Certain Coins to Croesus," *Numismatic Chronicle* 2 (1840), pp. 216-23. See Antigoni Zournatzi, "The Apadana Coin Hoards, Darius I and the West," *American Journal of Numismatics* 2<sup>nd</sup> ser., 15 (2003), Note 7, p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> Barclay Head, *The Coinage of Lydia and Persia*, London, 1877. Reprint, San Diego: Pegasus Publishing,

1967, p. 23.

<sup>5</sup> Babelon, Ernest C., Catalogue des Monnaies Grecques de la Bibliothèque Nationale: Les Perses Achéménides, Les Satrapes et les Dynastes Tributaires de leur Empire Chypre et Phénicie, Paris, 1893. Reprint, Bologna: Forni, 1974.

<sup>6</sup> Barclay Head, *Historia Numorum*, Second edition, London, 1911. Reprint, Chicago: Argonaut, 1967, p. 826.

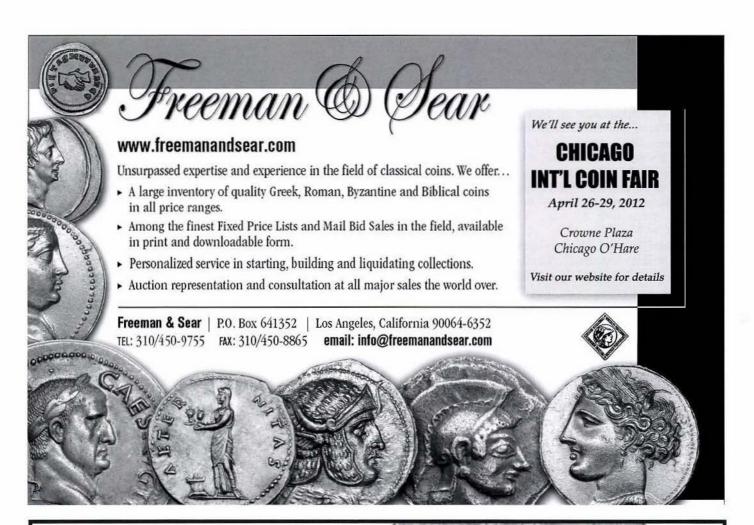
<sup>7</sup> Koray Konuk, "Asia Minor to the Ionian Revolt," *The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Coinage*, Edited by William E. Metcalf, Oxford: University Press, 2012, pp. 43-60.

8 Head 1911, p. 826.

9 Babelon 1893.

<sup>10</sup> George F. Hill, "Notes on Imperial Persian Coinage," *Journal of Hellenic Studies* (1919). Reprinted as *Imperial Persian Coinage*, Chicago: Obol International, 1969 and 1977, p. 7.

<sup>11</sup> Sydney P. Noe, *Two Hoards of Persian Sigloi*, Numismatic Notes and Monographs, No. 136. New York: American Numismatic Society, 1956, p. 43.



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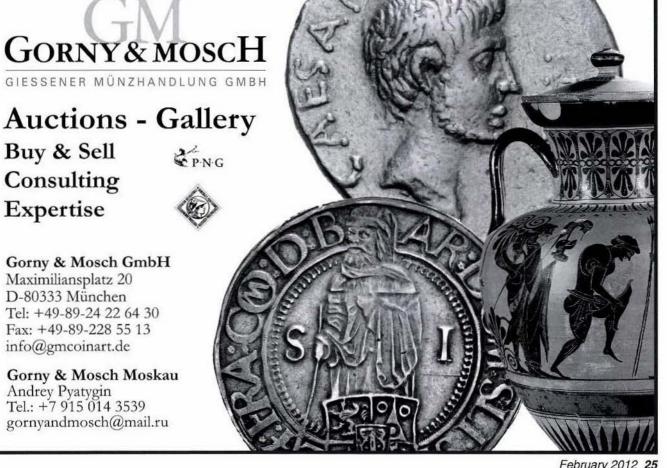
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<sup>12</sup> Seyrig's finds are described in Daniel Schlumberger, "L' Argent Grec dans l'Empire Achéménide," *Trésors Monétaires d'Afghanistan*. Mémoires de la Délégation Archéologique Française en Afghanistan 14. Edited by Raoul Curiel and Daniel Schlumberger, Paris, 1953, Appendix IV on p. 55-7, "Description des Deux Trouvailles, par M. Henri Seyrig."

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<sup>20</sup> Vargyas 1999, pp. 257-8.

<sup>21</sup> Ian A. Carradice, "Two Achaemenid Hoards," *Numismatic Chronicle* 158 (1998), pp. 1-23.

<sup>22</sup> Zournatzi 2003, pp. 6-7.

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<sup>27</sup> Stronach and Zournatzi 1997.

<sup>28</sup> Stronach and Zournatzi 1997.

<sup>29</sup> Portion of a drawing by Eugène Flandin, of Darius the Great from the Behistun rock relief, first published in Paris, 1851. Reproduced from Wikipedia.org.

30 Root 1989, p. 50.

31 See note 12.

<sup>32</sup> The author would like to thank Todd Ballen for his valuable assistance in searching auction catalogues.

About the Author-Bill Daehn has been studying ancient Greek coins for more than twenty-five years. Prior to turning his attention to ancient coins, Bill authored articles on a variety of numismatic topics, which appeared in Coins Magazine, The Numismatist, Penny-Wise, and The Asylum. This is his fifth article related to ancient Greek coinage for The Celator. Bill is also the author of the book Ancient Greek Numismatics: A Guide to Reading and Research, published in 2001. He is currently working on an update and expansion of this important bibliography for the field of ancient Greek numismatics.

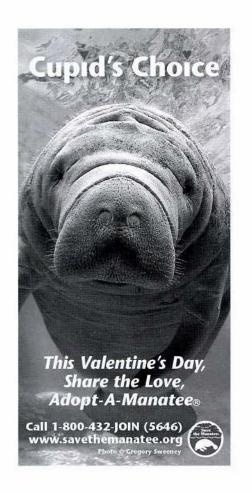




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## A Magnentian Hoard from Bridgnorth, Shropshire, England

by Antony Wilson

#### Introduction

In addition to being an excellent example of a Magnentian hoard buried in the aftermath of the rebel Magnentius' revolt against Constantius II, this find is a wonderful example of how the UK Treasure Act can work to the benefit of metal detectorist, archaeologist, and private collector alike.

#### Discovery

On October 10th, 2007, a metal detectorist discovered a large scattered hoard of late Roman coins that had been disturbed by deep plowing in a potato field near Bridgnorth, Shropshire. His subsequent actions are praised in the UK government 2007

Portable Antiquities and Treasure Annual Report, where local finds officer Peter Reavill states: "The finder is to be congratulated on the careful plotting and speedy reporting of this hoard as it enabled the excavation to take place and vital depositional information recorded. In turn, this minimised the impact to the landowner and his farming activity."

The majority of hoards that come to light are found outside of planned archaeological excavations, the original owner having selected a secluded spot to conceal his or her wealth away from human habitation, leading to loss of information on the archaeological context of the hoard. In this instance, swift action and close cooperation by the finder and the local Finds Liaison Officer led to an excavation of the findspot. The results of which showed that the hoard had been contained in



Figure 1–Constans (337-350), Bronze Silvered Centenionalis, Lyons mint, struck 348-50, FEL TEMP REPARATIO, Galley, Emperor with Victory type (RIC 105; Bridgnorth Report #28).

a large pottery vessel (broken by the plow), most probably previously used as a cooking pot as evidenced by burns marks on the outer edges. The pot had been buried in a U-shaped gulley or ditch that formed part of an otherwise unknown late Roman site.

continued on page 30...



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Roman Empire. Titus as Caesar (69-79 CE). Gold Aureus. HA.com/3003-06046 (image enlarged 2X)



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#### Bridgnorth Cont. from pg. 27

#### Composition

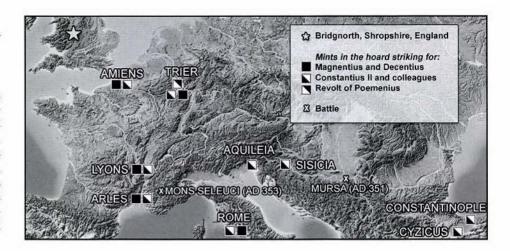
The hoard consisted of 2892 coins, ranging in date from a Reform Antoninianus of Probus to post Magnentian issues of Constantius II up to AD 355. The majority of the hoard was issues of Magnentius and Decentius (75%), followed by pre-Magnentian issues of Constantius II and Constans (18%), and closing with post Magnentian issues of Constantius II and Gallus (7%). See table below.

#### Coin Types



Figure 2-Constans (337-350), Bronze Centenionalis, Rome mint, struck 348-50, FEL TEMP REPARATIO, soldier dragging young barbarian from hut (RIC 138; Bridgnorth Report #62).

The AD 348 reform of the coinage by Constantius II saw the introduction of three different reverse types all with the reverse legend Fel(icium) Temp(orum) Reparatio (Happy Times



Restored), probably linked into the commemoration of the 1100th anniversary of Rome's foundation. All three types are well represented in the hoard, with the mint at Trier being the largest supplier.

The coinage of Magnentius begins with reverse types that copy those of Constantius II before the introduction of new types like GLORIA ROMANORVM (horseman). Two Victories, and most notably the Chi-Rho types for which he is best known. These later types were also struck by his junior colleague Decentius. An innovation in this reign was the striking of the new larger Double Centenionalis

with the Chi-Rho reverse and the opening of a new mint at Ambianum (Amiens in northern France). This town was allegedly his birthplace but also provided some security against wavering loyalty to his regime at the main mint town of Trier. Indeed, late in the life of the rebellion a certain 'Poemenius' struck Double Centenionalii with the Chi-Rho reverse in the name of Constantius II at Trier, as the city switched sides. Another visible departure from the coinage of Constantius II and his predecessors is the bare-headed portrait as opposed to the diademed one.

The hoard ends with issues of Constantius II and his junior colleague Gallus of the Fel Temp Reparatio (Falling horseman) type, many struck at the mint of Ambianum, which remained in operation for about a year after the fall of its founder Magnentius.

Almost 25% of the hoard was imitative types; this is a common feature of other Magnentian hoards and illustrates how quickly the forgers took up the new types.

				Mints				
Ruler & Type	Amiens	Trier	Lyon	Arles	Others	Uncertain	Imitations	Tota
PROBUS	1040	*	#:	+	1	526	1	1
CONSTANTINE I & LICINIUS II CONSTANTIUS II & CONSTANS (AD 348–50):	20 <b>-</b> 2	ā	-	5)	3	186	₹.	3
Fel Temp Reparatio (Galley)		184	14	21	34	14	153	420
Fel Temp Reparatio (Hut)	79 <u>4</u> 0	8	4	1	17	120	2	30
Fel Temp Reparatio (Falling Horseman) CONSTANTIUS II & VETRANIO (AD 350-1)	944	20	14	33	1	1	11	60
CONCORDIA MILITUM MAGNENTIUS & DECENTIUS (AD 350-1):	3 <del>4</del> 9	*	×	*:	1	1 <del>4</del> 4		1
Fel Temp Reparatio (Galley)	· •	28	-	-		•	-	28
Felicitas Reipublice (Emperor standing)		174	65	22	-	170	152	413
Gloria Romanorum (Emperor standing)	18	105	30	25	1	12	97	288
Falling Horseman	828	8	<u>2</u> 1	1	<u>151</u>	1125	722	1
2 Victories	529	296	52	47	5	61	243	1233
Chi-Rho	64	53	31	8	-	42	10	208
Brockage	138	*	+	=	<b>#</b> .	2 <b>+</b> 8		1
'POEMENIUS' Chi-Rho	2. <b>7</b> 5	40	-	-	<b>#</b> 1	276	<b>.</b>	40
CONSTANTIUS II & GALLUS (AD 351–54):								
Fel Temp Reparatio (Falling Horseman)	42	12	27	5j	18	17	46	162
Illegible fragments	321	S	<u> 2</u> 9	28	20	2	签	2
Total	653	900	237	158	81	150	712	2893

#### Historical Background – The Revolt of Magnentius

In AD 350, the two remaining sons of Constantine the Great, Constantius II and his younger brother Constans ruled the Roman Empire. Responsible for the western provinces, Constans'



Figure 3—Constantius II (337-361), Bronze Centenionalis, Rome mint, struck 348-50, FEL TEMP REPARATIO, soldier spearing fallen horseman (RIC 118: Bridgnorth Report #77).

increasingly cruel, corrupt and unpopular reign inspired a coup amongst the political and military elite led by Marcellinus, the *comes Largitionum* (chief finance minister). Flavius Magnus Magnentius, commander of the *Ioviani* and *Herculiani* elite guard units, was elevated to the rank of Augustus by the coup leaders. A native of Amiens and reputedly the son of a Romano-British father and a Frankish mother, he quickly took control of Britain, Gaul, Spain and for a period of time Rome. From the position of a slave in the service of Constantine I, he had quickly risen in the military ranks and must

have been a very capable individual despite the hostile opinions of later Roman historians. Constans fled and was killed as he attempted to cross the Pyrenees.

A pragmatic pagan, Magnentius chose to exploit the theological divide between Orthodox (more like modern Roman Catholic) Christians, many of which were to be found in the western provinces and the followers of the sect called Arianism, of which Constantius II himself was a supporter. The overt use

of the Chi-Rho on his later issues, especially on the Double Centenionalii but also as a minor device on other issues, is evidence of this. In addition, his portraiture is bare-headed and not diademed, imagery more reminiscent of Christ. The chief divergence between the Orthodox and Arian

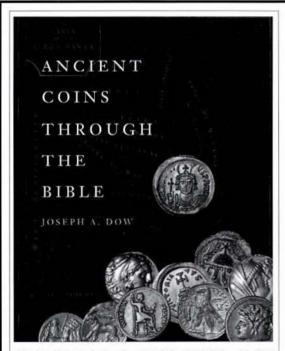
creeds is centered on the exact nature and relationship between the elements of the Holy Trinity ('God the Father,' 'God the Son,' and 'God the Holy Spirit'), in short the divinity of the 'man' Jesus Christ as opposed to 'God the Father' and the 'Holy Spirit.' He also removed the ban on some pagan prac-



Figure 4-Magnentius (350-353), Bronze Centenionalis, Trier mint, struck 350-353, FELICITAS REIPVBLICE, Emperor standing left with Victory and Chi-Rho banner (RIC 266; Bridgnorth Report #94).

tices and was clearly looking for support wherever it could be found.

Decentius, possibly the brother of Magnentius, was raised to the rank of Caesar early in AD 351 at Milan, in response to the earlier elevation of



The book is in full color, 8-1/4" x 10-1/4", with 353 pages of true natural papers and a hard cover, employing state of the art production and layout. The price is \$59.99, free shipping in USA, and get the copy signed by the author (not available in book stores). Pay through PayPal or send check/money order payable to Joseph A. Dow to: 1501 N.W. 198th St., Edmond, OK 73012. Inquiries to: joeadow@cox.net

## Ancient Coins Through the Bible

By Joseph A. Dow (ANA LM-4688)

Published by Tate Publishing

This new book is one of the unique books published in the field of numismatics. In fact, it is the only book ever written (that I am aware of) that retells the stories of the bible using photographs of REAL ANCIENT COINS (not hand drawn) for the entire bible land from Egypt to Spain. The book covers the time from Abraham's journey to the Promised Land in Genesis to the seven churches in Revelation and beyond. This book includes the history, stories, and ancient coins of the cities, villages, provinces, and leaders of the ancient world. The coins reflect the patriarchs who roamed the land of biblical times, the prophets' predictions, the Israelites' exile to Babylon, the Assyrians/Babylonians, the Persians, Greeks, Parthians, the Maccabeans, the Herodians, the Romans, and the spread of Christianity throughout the Byzantine Empire.

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Figure 5-Magnentius (350-353), Bronze Silvered Centenionalis, Lyons mint, struck 350-351, GLORIA ROMANORVM, emperor on horseback right spearing barbarian (RIC 115; Bridgnorth Report #117).



Figure 6-Magnentius (350-353), Bronze Centenionalis, Amiens mint, struck 350-353, VICTORIAE DD NN AVG ET CAE, two victories (RIC 5; Bridgnorth Report #127).

Gallus to Caesar by Constantius. Looking to eliminate Constantius and expand his territory, Magnentius marched east and engaged the enemy at Mursa in Pannonia (Osijek, Croatia) on 28 September 351. Despite huge losses on both sides, over 50,000 dead, the battle was indecisive and Magnentius was ultimately forced to retreat. Having lost the momentum of his campaign, his rebellion was ultimately to end with his total defeat at Mons Seleuci in the Hautes-Alpes, Southern France, in the summer of 353.

We know from the surviving accounts of the contemporary writer Ammianus Marcellinus, which survive from the period following the death of Magnentius, that the reprisals against the supporters of the defeated regime were severe. Constantius II sent an imperial notarius (secretary), known by the nickname Paul 'the Chain,' to Britain to root out supporters of Magnentius. The upper classes that had actively supported the rebel regime suffered most, with the seizure of property and the



Figure 7-Magnentius (350-353), Bronze Centenionalis, Lyons mint, struck 350-353, SALVS DD NN AVG ET CAES, Chi-Rho flanked by A and W (RIC 115; Bridgnorth Report #117).



Figure 8-Decentius (351-353), Bronze Centenionalis, Arles mint, struck 351-353, SALVS DD NN AVG ET CAES, Chi-Rho flanked by A and W (RIC 202; Bridgnorth Report #284).





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imprisonment and torture of the accused, often the innocently accused. It is in this climate that the Bridgnorth Hoard was buried and not recovered by its owner.

While it is tempting to speculate that the owner met an unpleasant death at the hands of imperial agents because of his or her supposed allegiance to the rebel regime, simply monetary policy might also explain its non-recovery. Eager to eliminate any vestige of the rebellion, the Magnentian coinage was rapidly removed from circulation, as evidenced by slightly later hoards of the fourth century that very rarely contain coins of the rebels. While in part inspired by political reality, the removal of the Magnentian coinage from circulation was also part of a wider currency reform that took place around AD 354 and that removed the larger module coinage from circulation. Incredibly, the legal text that authorized the demonetization of these denominations still survives today (CTh 9.23.1.), having been preserved in the later Codex Theodosianus compiled around AD 438.

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#### **UK Treasure Act**

Discovered in 2007 and promptly reported to the Local Finds Liaison Officer of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the hoard was legally processed under the UK 1996 Treasure Act. Following a coroner's inquest, the hoard was declared 'treasure' in terms of law and was examined and cataloged by the British Museum. The Treasure Trove Valuation Committee arrived at a fair market value for the hoard. The British Museum and the local Shropshire County Museum then got to select items they wished to retain for their collections, the finder being financially compensated for these coins. The balance of the hoard was then returned to the finder who subsequently released it onto the mar-York Coins (www.yorkcoins.com) has acquired over 1800 coins of the roughly 2000 released onto the open market. The coins have now been legally imported into the United States with a UK / EU export license in place.

## Sources, Further Reading, and Web Links:

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The Theodosian Code (CTh): Uhttp://ancientrome.ru/ius/library/codex/theod/liber09.htm#23

About the author-Antony Wilson, a native of Yorkshire, England, has a degree in archaeology from University College London's Institute of Archaeology. He joined

continued on page 37 ....



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## Art and the Market

## Kolbe & Fanning's NYINC Book Sale Brings Stellar Results

GAHANNA, OH-Kolbe & Fanning's characterization of their January 7, 2012 New York Book Sale as "Small but Mighty" has turned out to be quite apt. Of the 350 lots in the sale, 305 sold for a total of \$514,000, or an average price per lot of nearly \$1700 (all prices cited herein include the 15% buyer premium). Prices achieved ran from \$144 to \$40,250, the latter amount realized by two consecutive lots, the inventory of the Colonel E.H.R. Green coin collection and a set of three volumes of photographs depicting his fabled collections of U.S. gold quarter eagles, half eagles, and eagles.

Other sale highlights include:

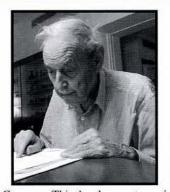
- Dr. Jacob Hirsh's unique annotated set of 164 proof plates depicting the original Pozzi collection of ancient Greek coins, which sold for \$11,500;
- Thomas Jefferson's remarkable 1790 Report on the Weights, Measures

- and Coins of the United States, a foundational document in American numismatics, which realized \$16,100;
- A nice example of the first printed book, Guillaume Budé's landmark 1514 De asse et partibus eius, which was hammered at \$13.800;
- A spectacular Bureau of Engraving and Printing Vignette Book, in a deluxe binding featuring well over 200 steelplate printed BEP portraits and vignettes, which sold for \$13,800;
- An exceptional, complete set of Visconti and Mongez's massive and "glorious" 1808–26 *Iconographie grecque et romaine*, which realized \$11,500;
- Over two dozen original plated Chapman brother sales, mostly in excellent condition, generally produced excellent results;
- A small selection of rare Russian numismatic works by and large brought prices well in excess of their estimates;

- A delightful 1720 manuscript on coin collecting by David Jennings sold for \$5,462; and
- Rare works and manuscripts on American colonial numismatics, several from the library of George C. Perkins, generally produced strong results.

Full color illustrated catalogues are still available and may be obtained by sending \$35 to: Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers LLC, 141 W. Johnstown Road, Gahanna, OH 43230-2700.

Plans are already being made for Kolbe & Fanning's January 2013 New York Book Sale, to be held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in conjunction with the 41<sup>st</sup> New York International Numismatic Convention. It is not too soon to consider consigning outstanding works to the 2013 New York Book Sale or to other Kolbe & Fanning sales, currently scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Contact details are provided at www.numislit.com or interested parties may call (614) 414–0855.



## Profiles in **Lumismatics**

Arnold Spaer 1919-2011

Arnold Spaer was born to Mark and Ada Spaer in the Free State of Danzig on March 28, 1919. In 1933, the local Nazi party achieved dominance in the city government and demanded the return of Danzig to

Germany. This development convinced many Jewish families to leave the city. The Spaer family arrived in Tel Aviv in 1934, and young Arnold enrolled in the Ben-Yehuda Gymnasium. In 1937, he started to study law at the Government School of Law in Jerusalem. While still a student, he began an internship in the office of Bernard (Dov) Joseph, later a prominent statesman and minister. Spaer settled in Jerusalem, where he remained for the rest of his life. During World War II, Spaer joined the British war effort. He served as a VCO (Viceroy's Commissioned Officer) with the Second Indian Division, and traveled around the Middle East to work on censorship. He served in Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo and Tripoli (Libya). In 1944, he was called to the Bar, and from that year on he practiced law, enjoying a long, successful career as a lawyer. Spaer bought his first ancient coins when he was about eight-years-old and still living in Danzig. He became a specialist in Seleucid coins, Jewish coins, and other material objects of the ancient world. His collection of Seleucid coinage was published as Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum Israel I, The Arnold Spaer Collection of Seleucid Coins (Jerusalem, 1998). Revered as both a scholar and a gentleman, Arnold Spaer died on March 4, 2011 in Jerusalem. (Text courtesy of David Hendin, photo courtesy of Boaz Zissu.)

> This feature is provided courtesy of *Kolbe & Fanning* Numismatic Booksellers, Gahanna, OH 43230

### Morton & Eden October 24<sup>th</sup> Sale Brings Over £4 Million

LONDON-Morton & Eden's sale of Exceptional Ancient Greek Coins on October 24th, 2011 was 100 per cent sold and raised £4,071,156/4,676,136/\$6,518,842. Specialist in charge Tom Eden said he was delighted by the response to the coins in this single-owner private collection, many of which were of exceptional quality and rarity.

Eden stated: "This collection was formed over the last 50 years and many of the most significant examples had been purchased in the 1960s and 70s. Since then, the owner has researched and recorded the provenance of each coin, many of which were until now previously unavailable to present-day collectors. These factors added greatly to their desirability. The response from bidders, both in the room and on the Internet, was extremely pleasing, while the results speak for themselves, recording a total of almost double our top estimate."

# Art and the Market

# Summary of CPAC Meeting on Renewal of Cypriot Memorandum of Understanding

# by Peter K. Tompa

The United States Cultural Property Advisory Committee (CPAC) met on January 18, 2012, to discuss the Cypriot Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Once again, CPAC Chair Prof. Patty Gerstenblith (PG, DePaul, Public Representative) began by thanking all speakers or those who had provided comments to CPAC. PG was joined by the following CPAC members: Katherine Reid (KR, Cleveland Museum [retired], Museum); Nina Archabal (NA, Minn. Historical Society, Museum); Marta de la Torre (MT, Florida International University, Public); James Willis (JW, James Willis Tribal Art, Trade); Nancy Wilkie (NW-Carlton College, Archaeology); Barbara Bluhm Kaul (BK, Trustee, Art Institute of Chicago, Public); Jane Levine (JL, Sotheby's Compliance Department [ex-prosecutor], Trade); and Rosemary Joyce (RJ, University of California, Berkley, Anthropology). Two slots, one in archaeology and the other a trade representative, remain vacant. KR, NW and JW also served under the Bush administration. The others are Obama appointees though PG and MT also served during the Clinton administration. There was also staff present including CPAC Executive Director Maria Kouroupas, a Committee lawyer, and Committee archaeologists.

The following individuals spoke at the meeting in support of the MOU: Carmen Biucchi (Harvard); Brian Daniels (U. Pennsylvania Cultural Heritage Center); Nathan Elkins (Baylor); Jane Evans (Temple); Raymond Ewing (CAARI-Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute); Ellen Hersher (CAARI); Anne Marie Knobloch (Virginia Tech); Laetitia La Follette (U. Mass/ AIA); Andrew McCarthy (CAARI): Joanna Smith (Princeton); Chris Shaegel (University of Cyprus); Tom Kline (Andrews Kurth); Josh Knerly (AAMD). The following individuals spoke against the MOU: Peter Tompa (IAPN/PNG); Wayne Sayles (ACCG); and Eloise Ullman (ICTA). In addition, 77% of the comments recorded on the regulations.gov website either opposed the MOU or their extension to coins.

Carmen Biucchi (Harvard) indicated that coins provide important documentation of early Cypriot history because there are few written sources. Even low value bronze coins are important because they frequently appear at archaeological sites. We need to all work together to preserve the past. Cypriot coins are relatively uncommon. In response to a question, Biucchi indicated that it is relatively easy to trace expensive coins due to their appearance at auction, but this is not the case for less expensive coins. She also indicated that metal detectors are the problem.

Brian Daniels (U. Penn. Cultural Center) argued for the extension of restrictions to post-Byzantine period ecclesiastical material. He also suggested that US law enforcement pursue better coordination with Cypriot law enforcement, and other countries with strong Greek cultural influence, including Greece itself and Bulgaria.

Nathan Elkins (Baylor) indicated that Cyprus' cultural property is in jeopardy as proven by a recent large seizure of artifacts, which included bronze and silver coins. There is a large market in the US as demonstrated by the fact that 200 Cypriot coins are currently listed on the VCoins website. Most Cypriot coins circulated locally. If you add together a list prepared by Wayne Sayles of coins found outside of Cyprus and a list Elkins compiled of coins from Cypriot contexts, that shows that

continued on page 36 ....



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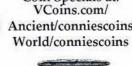
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## CPAC Cont. from page 35

Cypriot coinage is much more prevalent in Cyprus than outside of Cyprus.

Jane Evans (Temple) also indicated that it was important to continue restrictions on coins because it is important that their context not be lost.

Raymond Ewing is a former ambassador to Cyprus. He now serves a CAARI's President. CAARI receives funding from the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Import restrictions should be as closely conformed to Cypriot law, which covers artifacts up to 1850, as possible.

Ellen Hersher is a scholar and archaeologist associated with CAARI. Cyprus has been her specialty for over 40 years. Looting is a historical problem in Cyprus. Looting still goes on until today. Looting only declined during the periods of WWI and WWII and during the 1950's when British forces were involved in anti-insurgency operations. Wealthy Cypriots have collected Cypriot antiquities since the 19th century. There is no shame in looting in Cyprus. Increasing efforts are being made to educate the populace. There is a great need for a new museum (the current one dates back to Victorian times) to encourage youth to respect their past. Metal detectors continue to be a serious problem; more legislation is needed. The major collections are grandfathered in. It is Ms. Hersher's opinion that they are no longer adding much material, but most Cypriots don't think that looting is wrong. We shouldn't point fingers at Cyprus, but try to fix the problem.

Anne Marie Knobloch is a CAARI board member, who teaches at Virginia Tech. She is also an AIA member. Cyprus has important religious sanctuaries that need to be studied. Virginia Tech offers students the opportunity to excavate in Cyprus and would like to do more with Cypriot students.

Laetitia La Follette is the AIA's VP for professional responsibility. She is associated with the University of Massachusetts. Looting remains a problem, including for coins. Because ancient coins are handmade, they are all different and may be traced. The AIA can help draft the designated list. The laws in the Greek Cypriot area need to be tightened. The laws in the North are actually stronger.

#### Bridgnorth Cont. from pg. 33

Spink and Son Ltd in London in 1993 as a specialist in British coins, tokens, and medals. During this time, he contributed to the yearly revision of the Spink Standard Catalog of British Coins, in particular the ancient British section, which he fully revised. He was also a specialist advisor to the Treasure Trove Valuation Committee. In 1998, Antony was appointed Senior Vice President of Spink America in New York, where as senior spe-



Figure 10-Magnentius (350-353), Bronze Centenionalis, Trier mint, struck 350-353, SALVS DD NN AVG ET CAES, Chi-Rho flanked by A and W (RIC 6; Bridgnorth Report #247).



Figure 9-Magnentius (350-353), Bronze Centenionalis, Amiens mint, struck 350-353, SALVS DD NN AVG ET CAES, Chi-Rho flanked by A and W (RIC 35; Bridgnorth Report #238).

cialist he ran and managed the former numismatic and philatelic retail and auction division of Christie's Inc. In 2002, following Christie's sale of the Spink division, he founded York Coins to provide a high level of professional and personalized service to collectors in the areas of numismatics that as Antony notes, "I know and love best."



## NYINC Room Block Cont. from pg. 56

event. That fact alone confirms the level of activity taking place at the NYINC better than anything I might have to say."

The sleeping room block is now open to accept reservations. Rates of \$299 or \$320 are available, depending on the type of accommodations selected. Guests should call the hotel directly at (212) 355-3000 and mention rate code "NYZ" in order to obtain the special rates. Foley also said, "New York City and the Waldorf are a beehive of tourist activity during January,

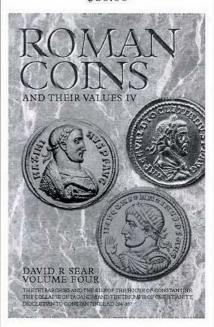
with shoppers converging on the city to take advantage of post-Christmas sales and promotions. The Waldorf always seems to sell out over most of the nights of our convention, especially the Wednesday through Saturday overlapping the bourse area dates. People would be well advised to make their reservations well in advance to be assured of having accommodations."

Additional details about the NYINC are available at the event's web site, www.nyinc.info.

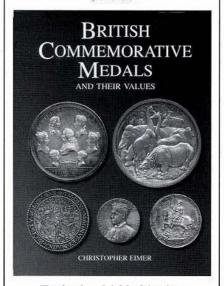


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# **LETTERS**

Continued from page 4

minted a series of five coins. A large 8-prutot (Æ 23, Hendin 481) and a smaller 4-prutot (Æ 20, H-482), each inscribed in Hebrew with "Mattatayah the High Priest" on the obverse and  $\text{BA}\Sigma\text{I}\Lambda\text{E}\Omega\Sigma$  ANTIFONOY in Greek on the reverse, and two typically Hasmonean prutahs—H-483 and H-484.

The fifth and almost certainly last coin being the famous "Menorah" coin, H-485. The only ancient Jewish coin to depict the sacred symbols of the menorah or seven-branched candle stick surrounded by BAΣIΛΕΩΣ ANTI-ΓΟΝΟΥ, and on the reverse the showbread table surrounded by "Mattatayah the High Priest" in Hebrew. The coins are bronze prutot struck on the usual cast strip planchet, which was then broken into individual coins. Meshorer noted that the dies used were invariably too big for the planchet, resulting in coins with incomplete legends or designs. Jewish law forbade the use of such symbols, which may have resulted in the destruction of the coins by the temple authorities after Herod's victory. Whatever the reason, of the thousands if not hundreds of thousands of prutot discovered, only a handful of authentic "Menorah" coins have been found, of which 26, about two-thirds of the known specimens, are portrayed on the Menorah Coin Project website (www.menorahcoinproject).

The coin I had the opportunity to hold and examine is one such coin, vet at the time shrouded in mystery, having been purchased by a colleague as a Herodian piece. While the showbread table reverse is quite distinct, the obverse shows just the two Greek letters AN with no discernable hint of the famous menorah. The coin had been purchased in a small lot at one of the auctions that dispersed the J. Maltiel-Gerstenfeld collection. This collection is illustrated in the book 260 Years of Ancient Jewish Coinage (Tel Aviv, 1982), which included an illustration of the collection's "Menorah" coin (page 124), but showing a coin with a beautifully clear and complete obverse menorah. This prompted the purchaser to conclude he had a different coin, which indeed was the case for the obverse of the coin pictured. What had not been realized until having had the coin in my hand but moments before, I pointed out that the reverse pictured was in fact the

coin I had just held. There was some disbelief until the image and the coin were compared and the truth revealed. The photos in the book were from two different coins, the true obverse not having been illustrated for the obvious reason that no menorah was visible.

A little detective work followed, and it was determined that the obverse photo used was from Plate III, No. 23 (listed as the reverse) in A. Reifenberg's *Ancient Jewish Coins* (Jerusalem, 1965). This coin is also pictured on the Menorah Coin Project ATGe (Obverse die 11, Reverse die 9), where the fact that two coins had been illustrated had already been realized but that the obverse die was not otherwise recorded.

I did offer to purchase the coin at cost, however this was declined, and the coin, which was then in the MacLeay Collection, was subsequently sold in CNG Auction 78, lot 931, for considerably more than I could afford. However, I can still say that I have held a "Menorah" coin, albeit one without a menorah.

Rev. Peter R. Dunstan Sydney, Australia



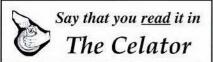
The Maltiel-Gerstenfeld Menorah Bronze Prutot. Photo courtesy of CNG, Inc.

# Enjoyed the "Supernova" Article

I am writing to tell you how much I enjoyed the article by Robert S. McIvor entitled "A Supernova on Ancient Coins" in the December 2011 issue of *The Celator*.

The article expounds on just two sentences in Ignatius of Antioch's letter to the Ephesians. I have read all seven of Ignatius' letters from a religious viewpoint—not a numismatic one. Mr. McIvor's article provided a new and interesting perspective.

Reginald Nizol Livonia, Michigan



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### CPAC Cont. from pg. 36

Andrew McCarthy is a CAARI trustee. Looting has increased since the 1960s. There is a famous incident where a tomb was set aside as a dowry. The Department of Antiquities is doing its best to fight against looting. A site where McCarthy works has not suffered looting from 2007-2011. There was one incident where looters struck the site, presumably looking for coins. CAARI gives all documentation created from archaeological investigations to the Department of Antiquities. MOU's can help educate Cypriots about the importance of their heritage.

Joanna Smith of Princeton is a past CAARI Trustee. Cyprus is an academic crossroads. Cypriot children are being taught about their history and Cyprus sends exhibits abroad.

Chris Shaegel is from the University of Cyprus. He works closely with CAARI. Because there are few manuscripts that predate 1600, the preservation of Cypriot material culture is important. Coins should be protected and the restrictions should be extended further in time. Icons also need protection. There is no internal market in Cyprus.

Peter Tompa spoke for IAPN and PNG, two trade associations that represent the small business of the numismatic trade. Each Committee member must ask themselves whether they can do so in good conscious after considering these undisputed facts: (1) Coins were evidently placed on the designated list on the orders of former Undersecretary Nicholas Burns as a "thank you" to Cypriot advocacy groups, which had given him an award; (2) Jay Kislak, CPAC's former chair, has stated under oath that the State Department misled Congress and the Public about CPAC's vote against import restrictions on coins: (3) In 2007, the AIA claimed that Cypriot coins "rarely circulated" to justify restrictions on "coins of Cypriot type." However, a top Cypriot official

has admitted that "It is true that Cypriot coins shared the same destiny as all other coins of the ancient world. As a standard media of exchange they circulated all over the ancient world due to their small size, which facilitated their easy transport..." Moreover, this view has substantial scholarly support; (4) The CPIA requires less drastic remedies to be tried first before import restrictions are imposed, but Cyprus has no coherent regulatory scheme for metal detectors and even allows British tourists to bring them to the Island; and (5) Restrictions imposed on unprovenanced "coins of Cypriot type" only discriminate against American collectors and the small businesses of the numismatic trade; such coins may be shipped from abroad to anywhere but the USA, including Cyprus.

Moreover, he stated that there is no good reason to renew the MOU for yet another 5 years. Cyprus has already had the benefit of restrictions since 1999 on ethnological artifacts and 2002 on archaeological artifacts. Yet, a Swiss scholar reports most looted material goes to wealthy Greek Cypriot collectors, and not as has been maintained to collectors abroad. In addition, all this appears to be done with the full knowledge and acquiescence of Greek Cypriot authorities. Thus, restrictions only discriminate against American collectors.

In response to a question from JW, Tompa indicated it was wrong to so burden the small businesses of the numismatic trade just so archaeologists might occasionally get some relevant information about dating sites from a coin. He also disputed the claim by JL that import restrictions are easy to comply with. He noted that US Customs will not allow entry of coins and other antiquities unless they are pictured in a catalogue that predates restrictions. Thus, even the difficult to obtain certifications are not enough for Customs.

Wayne Sayles indicated that the ACCG represents the interests of the

approximately 50,000 serious ancient coin collectors in the United States. The ACCG is interested in fair and equitable application of US law. The CPIA was meant to protect significant artifacts, not everything under the sun. In response to a question from PG, Wayne Sayles indicated that it is unrealistic to ask the small businesses of the numismatic trade to provide provenance information for every coin they import.

Eloise Ullman indicated that most ICTA members have under 5 employees. She also noted that President Obama recently recognized that it is important not to overburden small businesses with paperwork when his administration signed onto an effort to end a burdensome requirement that coin dealers prepare 1099 forms for every purchase over \$600.

Tom Kline disclosed that he previously represented Cyprus. He stated that Cyprus is a leader in protecting its own cultural property, but takes a reasonable approach in doing so. The Turkish Republic is an illegal regime so he disputes that DOS look to their laws on antiquities as models. We need higher ethical standards from collectors. The import restrictions on coins should be no big deal because the restrictions only date from 2007. Collectors only have themselves to blame if they do not keep adequate documentation.

Josh Knerly spoke on behalf of the AAMD, which supports the MOU with Cyprus with some limited provisos. First, the AAMD would like to know more about a proposal to extend restrictions to new types of ecclesiastical objects. It appears members of the archaeological community know details of the request, but these have not been shared with the public at large. KR asked why no Museum Director was present. Knerly indicated he would determine if some curators with specialized knowledge would be able to testify in the future.



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# **ANTIQUITIES**

# by David Liebert

# The Hebrew Seals of the Iron Age

The Hebrew seals of the Iron Age in ancient Israel and Judaea were part of the larger class of Hebraeo-Phoenician seals that began to appear in the 9th-8th centuries BC, about the time of the united monarchy and the early Prophetic Period. Many of these seals bear private names, which was unusual in Egypt and Babylonia. Others bear the names of government officials, some of which are known from the Bible. Many known examples were for official use to mark produce and bore the legend "to the king Hebron" and the like.

A large number of jar handles with the impression of these seals have been found and often appear on the antiquities market. Most seals were used, however, for sealing documents written on papyrus rather than clay tablets and so cylinder seals are rare, with the stamp seal being the norm. Many are scarab or scaraboid in shape, as were the contemporary Phoenician seals. Under eastern influence, many conoid and other stamp seals also appear, as they do in Assyria and Babylonia. Most were pierced longitudinally so as to be worn on a string or set in a ring. Some had gold mounts that have survived.

While most of the common scarabs imported into the Levant or imitated there were made of a soft material such as faience or frit, Hebrew seals were mostly made in stone, usually semi precious hard stones such as carnelian, chalcedony, jasper, and agate. Other materials included limestone, rock crystal, hematite, ivory, jadeite, steatite, glass, and metal among others.

In contrast to neighboring areas, inscribed seals were in widespread use by the common people as well as the nobility and wealthy classes. The inscriptions are in the old He-

brew script that was also used by the Phoenicians, Moabites, Arameans, etc. The language is mostly Hebrew or Aramaic. Although many simply bear inscriptions, some bear symbols such as winged scrolls, lions, griffons, cherubs, and even figures of deities, although these may have belonged to foreigners living in the area. These seals are always scarce, highly prized by collectors, and command large sums at auction when they appear. Because most collectors are not familiar with the language of these seals. forgeries are difficult to detect. Many good forgeries with correct inscriptions are also to be found on the market, and the perspective purchaser should be extremely cautious. Whenever possible, expert opinion should be consulted before purchase.



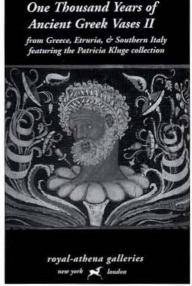
A rare Hebrew seal, discovered in 2008 in the northwestern part of the Western Wall plaza in Jerusalem, which dates to the latter part of the First Temple period. Photo courtesy of the Israel Antiquities Authority.

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# Coins of the Bible

# by David Hendin

# 50 Years of Numismatic Discoveries in Israel

Probably millions of coins have been found in the ancient land of Israel over the past fifty years. Some of the coins were found by local people combing the soil, some were discovered in excavations, and still others came into the market from unknown sources. Recently Israeli archaeologist and numismatist Ilan Shachar published a wonderful article entitled "The Coins of Ancient Israel—Discoveries of the Last 50 Years," in the Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society (29).

Shachar is the first to admit that his list is subjective and some may disagree with his selections. Overall, however, he did a superb job of combing the essence of the discoveries, and here is a summary of his findings by period.

Iron Age. This period from around the 11th to 7th centuries BCE was of course prior to coinage. However, Shachar points to the 1995 discovery at excavations at Dor (Dora) of a jar containing almost 19 pounds of Phoenician cut pieces of silver, dating to the early Iron Age. "This Hacksilber, the precursor of coined money, had been subdivided into units of weight and, although not unique, this find was important for its early dating and for its

find-spot. It was also an illustration of trade relations between East and West," Shachar notes.

Persian period. In 1989, during excavations at Ascalon, a hoard of 31 fourth century BCE obols of the Athena/owl type was discovered. "The significance lies in the fact that only a total of 51 Philistian coins, including this hoard, are known to have come from controlled archaeological excavations." Also from this period, a hoard of 18 Sa-

marian coins and two single coins were found during the 1980s in excavations at Mt. Gerizim in ancient Neapolis (Nablus), and these are the only Samarian coins known to have been found in a controlled excavation.

Hellenistic and Hasmonean periods. Shachar points out that the tiny silver Yehud coins were unknown until around the 1960s, and many have been discovered since then.

A remarkable hoard of around 4,500 silver coins was discovered in 1960 near Isfiya on Mt. Carmel in the north. Most of the coins were Tyre shekels and half shekels from the first century BCE to the first century CE. "It was speculated (by Leo Kadman) that they represented dues collected for the Temple in Jerusalem."



Figure 1-One hoard, including gold coins, shown in situ and discovered in the Cave of the Te'omim by Boaz Zissu and colleagues in 2009. Photo courtesy of Boaz Zissu.

Excavations during the 1980s on Mt. Gerizim "proved beyond doubt that John Hyrcanus I was the first Hasmonean ruler to strike coins, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE, and that all the coins with the name Yehohanan must be ascribed to him, thus settling very long-standing argument on both subjects," Shachar notes.

He also points to an assemblage of "more than 1,700" coins from the reign of Alexander Jannaeus, which was found on the shore of the Dead Sea in 2002. There may have been a dock for Jannaeus' royal use in the area, and one hoard of more than 300,000 coins of Jannaeus is reported to have been excavated by local Bedouins.

I'm pleased to say that one of my discoveries made the cut, and in fact, it was a coin I published together with Shachar: "An unusual Hasmonean coin which had been triple struck, enabling the final determination of a decades-old discussion in favor of Alexander Jannaeus as the identity of the ruler Yntn (Yontan), whose name appears on Hasmonean overstruck coins."

Shachar also highlights Shraga Qedar's 1992 identification of Marisa, a previously unknown mint that operated in the middle of the first century during the governorship of A. Gabinius in Syria.

Herodian period. Large numbers of Herodian coins found in the last 50 years has allowed Donald Ariel of the Israel Antiquities Authority to write a wonder-



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ful new study of the Herodian coins. (I will review Ariel's new book on this topic in a future issue of *The Celator*.)

First Jewish Revolt. Masada excavations from 1963 to 1965 yielded three hoards, which included 32 Jewish War shekels and 34 half-shekels. Shachar points out that "These, together with the lack of any such finds in the fortress of Simon Maccabeus at Beth Zur, provided the final unequivocal determination that none of the coins presently identified as coins of the first Jewish revolt against the Romans in the 1st century CE could be attributed to Simon..., as some scholars had continued to maintain despite accumulating evidence to the contrary."

Furthermore, excavations at Gamla in the north from 1976-1989 produced more than 6,200 coins—mostly Hasmonean. "But the most interesting are undoubtedly the few specimens of the 'Gamla coin,' struck locally in imitation of the silver shekels of the first Jewish revolt."

Bar Kokhba Revolt. Shachar points to excavations at Herodian in 1967, which yielded a hoard of 770 Bar Kokhba bronze coins. This hoard allowed the beginning of theories regarding the chronology of coins of Bar Kokhba as well as Dan Barag's early observation about the probable existence of two mints.

Shachar does not mention, but I will, several huge hoards of Bar Kokhba coins that were found by Arab field workers. One of the largest, containing several thousands of coins was, according to stories, literally stumbled into by an Arab woman walking through a field. These hoards, known as El Fawar, Dahariyah, etc., allowed the massive study of Bar Kokhba coinage by Leo Mildenberg.

In 2009, three Bar Kokhba period hoards were discovered in the Cave of the Te' omim in the Judaean hills. "The significance of the find lies in the fact that it is one of the few hoards of Bar Kokhba issues that was found with associated material in a controlled archaeological excavation," writes Shachar.

It is also highly important that one of these hoards was the first time in history that coins of Bar Kokhba were found together with coins of the Jewish War, thus establishing a connection that had been suspected but never previously proven.

Roman period. "Excavations at Shu'afat between 2003 and 2007 produced about 800 coins. "A high pro-

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continued on page 46 ....

# The Internet Connection

by Kevin Barry & Zachary "Beast" Beasley

#### It's An Election Year!

Well, at least here in the United States of America it's another election year. During 2012, the 235+ million age-eligible citizens will have the opportunity to cast their vote for President. The USA is a constitutional republic by definition (no, it's not a democracy, as so many citizens seem to respond when asked), but what does that mean and how does that compare to the ancient Roman Republic?

Today in the USA, citizens can vote for various offices, positions and proposals at a polling station, determined by where they reside. If a citizen cannot visit their prescribed polling station during the voting period, they can still cast their vote via absentee ballot. Our government is balanced between three branches-judicial, executive and legislative. Elected offices have varying lengths of term and some have term limits. For example, the highest office in our country is the president (executive branch). This office has a four-year term and is limited to two terms. Our Congress is comprised of the Senate and the House of Representatives (legislative branch). Each of our 50 states has two senators, which serve staggered six-year terms. The number of representatives is determined by that state's population, but is entitled to at least one. The total



Figure 1–P. Licinius Nerva, Roman Republic, AR Denarius, 113-112 BC. Three citizens voting on comitium, one voter receives ballot from attendant below, another voter places ballot in cista – the process for the voting procedure of the Comitia Tributa. Image courtesy of CNG, Inc.

number of representatives is set by law at 435 and the office is a two-year term, currently with no limits. The Supreme Court (judicial branch) is the highest court, and its nine lifetime appointment (by the executive branch) members are responsible for hearing and deciding on cases elevated by the lower courts. All of this is at the federal level. Each of the 50 states has a system of local governments set up to handle all of the affairs not covered by federal law.

The system of government during the Roman Republic evolved and became more refined over the ~500 years, but I'll go over the essentials.

#### Roman "Executive Branch"

In the ancient Roman Kingdom, four men led a revolution in 509 BC and overthrew the monarch, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus. Two of the men, Lucius Junius Brutus and Publius Valerius Publicola, were named the first consuls (originally named praetors, the office renamed in 305 BC) of what would then be known as the Roman Republic. These consuls would be elected each year by the citizens

and would be advised by the Senate. Unlike today, the praetors/consuls had a lot of consolidated power in the form of administrative, legislative, and judicial capacities during times of peace, and like today, held the highest military command during times of war. They also had additional religious duties and included certain rites that could only be carried out by the highest state officials. The two consuls were elected each year, served together, and had veto power over the other.

#### Roman "Legislative Branch"

During the monarchial period of Rome, the Senate was comprised of 100 members. When the Republican period began, the two consuls expanded the Senate to 300 members and chose them by birth or rank. The Senate was primarily an advisory board and voted as one body, but did have control over finance, administration, and foreign relations. It also served as intermediary between citizens and the gods, as well as other religious matters.

The supreme power in the Roman Republic was the assembly, which was made up of all the citizens of Rome. There were two assemblies, the assembly of centuries (comitia centuriata) and the assembly of tribes (comitia tributa).



Figure 2–L. Cassius Longinus, Roman Republic, AR Denarius, 63 BC. The reverse celebrates and commemorates the proposal for the Lex Cassia Tabellaria becoming law. Image courtesy of CNG, Inc.

Consuls were elected by the comitia centuriata—originally the assembly of representatives of military units (centuries). The assembly elected senior state officials, declared war, instituted peace treaties, approved legislation, and, until the function was transferred to the courts, had the final say in cases of execution or exile.

The *comitia tributa* was made up of the thirty-five tribes, of which there were four tribes in the city itself, sixteen in the immediate vicinity, and fifteen in the

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New Articles Monthly

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# Through the Looking Glass

by Wayne G. Sayles

# Time for Change

Last month, I wrote about the nature of bureaucratic overreach, particularly as it affects collectors of ancient coins. Law professors Stephen Urice and Andrew Adler have written extensively on the subject and use the term "extralegal" to describe specifically what the U.S. State Department is doing as a matter of policy with cultural property management. In their most recent paper, "Resolving the Disjunction between Cultural Property Policy and Law: A Call for Reform," the University of Miami educators have argued that "Cultural property policy in the United States has become increasingly lawless, for lack of a better term" and that the "Executive Branch has aggressively restricted the movement of cultural property into the United States...without regard for constraining legal authority." That is a very serious assessment that ought to ring loud warning bells to constitutionalists and ordinary folks who believe that the rule of law is the foundation of our society.

Urice and Adler cite and agree with the ACCG position that under the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (CCPIA) "...restrictions may be applied only to 'archaeological or ethnological materials,' which, by definition, are limited to certain objects that are 'first discovered within,' and [are] subject to export control by, the [requesting] State Party." They also raise the often-cited arguments that coins cannot conceivably be restricted by type alone since they circulated widely in antiquity through trade and more recently through worldwide collector markets. The conclusion of Urice and Adler is that statutory reform of the CCPIA is necessary to "realign law and policy, thus minimizing the damage currently being done to the democratic process and the rule of law." The bottom line is that the U.S. State Department is not following the law that they are sworn to uphold.

At the same time, there has been a significant rise in the number of ancient coin detentions and seizures to include troubling swat-team-like raids by federal officials and growing attempts to extend the National Stolen Property Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act as vehicles for enforcement of nationalist state cultural property laws. So far, only dealers have reported issues with importation of ancient coins. It remains to be seen whether this is a policy evolution that eventually leads to repression of trade worldwide. In any case, it is clear that ancient coin collectors and the related trade in America are under close scrutiny and laws that were designed for other purposes are now being used to control the transfer of cultural property.

The numismatic trade and the Ancient Coin Collectors Guild are working hard to preserve the rights that collectors in America have long enjoyed and collectors in most other nations still enjoy. It's been a long and tedious battle, and it likely will not end anytime soon. Even though import restrictions have been unfairly and "extralegally" imposed by the State Department, we must adhere to those restrictions until we can orchestrate a change. The fact that our public servants make a mockery of the law does not give us the freedom to ignore it.

For most collectors, import restrictions have not yet become a major problem. Purchases from international online sellers tend to flow without interruption, and there are a considerable number of coins already within the U.S. that will recycle in legitimate internal markets. It is likely that most small shipments of common coins will continue to flow from international sellers into the U.S. market. They simply are not worth the effort to confiscate, nor are they of much concern to anyone but a few ideologues. However, the threshold of interest is bound to increase as the notion spreads that coins are generally restricted items.

The place where import restrictions will have the most direct effect will be in the numismatic trade where dealers have traditionally found sources of material in legitimate international markets. It will become more and more difficult over time to buy coins at European auctions or bourses and simply carry them back to the U.S. What seems inevitable to me is the creation of a system by which coin provenance, of at least certain types of coins, can be verified. This is a very unpopular subject with both collectors and the trade, but unless there is a court decision or statutory exemption the day will almost certainly come when ancient coin collectors in the U.S. will be forced to register their holdings and maintain proof of legal title.

Many industries have faced regulation and fought it; few have succeeded once government decides to move in that direction. The most common alternative is a self-regulating process where the objectives of regulation are achieved through private sector initiatives. The obvious problem with numismatics is that there are not any lines of authority. Consequently, self-regulation would be exceedingly difficult. Still, it would be better for private collectors to develop and launch those initiatives and work through them in a voluntary program than to wait for oppressive regulation from government that would serve no interest other than that of the administrators. The tremendous success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Britain demonstrates that voluntary schemes can and do work. Of course, the PAS is modeled on the reporting of finds, not the legitimization of collector holdings.

Over the coming months, I hope that a constructive dialogue will emerge that leads to some plausible options for verifying legitimacy of the millions of ancient coins currently in circulation among collectors. Change is going to happen, we can bank on that, so it is in our best interests to create it ourselves.

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#### Hendin Cont. from pg. 43

portion of these are from the first and second centuries CE, many with the countermark of the Tenth Legion, offering a rare glimpse of coinage circulating between the two Jewish revolts," Shachar explains.

In 1966, a hoard of more than 10,300 Roman silver coins were discovered at Mapsis in the eastern Negev, hidden in the ruins of a Nabataean house. Other than a few Nabataean coins, "the hoard consisted of drachms and tetradrachms from the 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> centuries CE. About 75% were issued by the Severan dynasty."

Shachar adds that "One of the largest hoards ever found in Israel—some 26,000 coins—was discovered in 1998 during a salvage dig at Tel Malot north of Kibbutz Hulda. Based on about 5,000 examples already cleaned, 90% are from the 5th century CE. The nature of the hoard and the circumstances of its deposit could not be determined."

More than 14,000 bronze coins have been found by archaeologists at Capernaum. "The importance of the find," Shachar explains, "lies clearly in the relation between such foundation deposits and the chronology of the structure."

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Figure 2–A second hoard discovered in the Cave of the Te'omim, notice a Jewish War silver shekel discovered together with Bar Kokhba coins struck more than 60 years later. Photo courtesy of Boaz Zissu.

Byzantine period. The highlight of the Byzantine coins was the discovery during 2008 excavations in a parking lot outside the Dung Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem. A cache of 264 gold solidi of Heraclius (610-641 CE) was discovered. "This hoard is a unique find in context, the evidence strongly suggesting that it was part of an emergency issue minted in Jerusalem, which would be the only time that gold coins were ever minted in the province of Palestine during the Roman and Byzantine periods. It also has provided strong evidence for the dating and destruction of the Byzantine complex to the Persian invasion in 614 CE."

Shachar also reviews discoveries from the later Umayyad, Fatimid, Crusader, and Mamluk periods. Perhaps the most remarkable of them was a hoard of 751 Byzantine gold *solidi* that was found at Beit Shean, the ancient Nysa-Scythopolis. This was "the largest gold hoard from the 7th century found in an archeological excavation in Israel. It was probably sequestered during the unstable decade preceding the monetary reform of 'Abd al-Malik in 696/697 CE."

Shachar has provided us with a wonderful summary of a remarkable half-century of numismatic discoveries in Israel.

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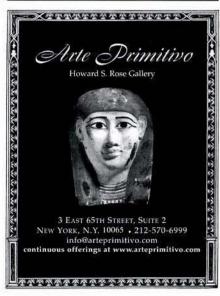
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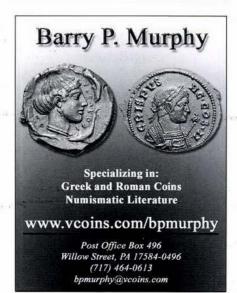




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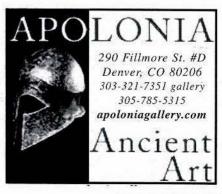
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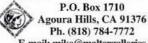
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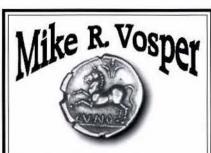
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Manuscripts and illustrations can also be sent to the Editor c/o *The Celator*, P.O. Box 10607, Lancaster, PA 17605-0607 or Kerence@frontiernet.net.



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March 22-23, 2012—Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, One West Pratt St., Baltimore, MD

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# Club & Society Directory

# Ancient Coin Club of Chicago

Meets the 4th Monday of the month (except Dec.) at 6pm at the research library of Harlan J. Berk, Ltd. at 77 W. Washington, 13th Floor, in downtown Chicago. For information, please write: ACCC

P.O. Box 411933,

Chicago, IL 60641-1933. www.ancient-coin-club-chicago.com Please join our monthly discussion of Greek, Roman and Biblical coins and antiquities.

# Ancient Coin Club of Los Angeles

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 1pm at the Community Room in the Sherman Oaks Galleria in Sherman Oaks, CA. For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.accla.org">http://www.accla.org</a>.

# San Francisco Ancient Numismatic Society

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 2:15pm at Fort Mason, San Francisco. Guests are welcome. For further information, please contact the club at SFANS@ancient-coins.com.

# PAN – The Pacific Ancient Numismatists



Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 1:00pm at the Bellevue Public Library in Bellevue, WA. For further information write to PAN at

P.O. Box 1384, Langley, WA 98260, www.pnna.org/pan

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# Twin Cities Ancient Coin Club

Meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 Snelling Ave., one block south of Grand Ave. in St. Paul, MN. For more information, please visit the club's website at www.tinyurl.com/w5wkn.

# D.A.W.N.

Denver Area World Numismatists

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at 7PM at Calvary Chapel located at 9052 W. Ken Caryl Ave near So. Garrison Street in Littleton, Colorado. For collectors of Ancient, Medieval and World coins. <u>All are welcome!</u> Call Bill Rosenblum at 720-981-0785 for further information.

# MANA

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For information write:

MANA.info@yahoo.com

# Classical Numismatic Society of the Delaware Valley

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 1:00pm at Camden County Library, 15 MacArthur Blvd., Westmont, NJ 08108. For information, please call Dick Shultz at (856) 667-0346.

# Ancient Coin Collectors Guild

P.O. Box 911 Gainesville, MO 65655



The OCACC meets on the 4th Saturday of the month from 1:30-4:30PM at the Fountain Valley Public Library. The library is located at 17635 Los Alamos Street in Fountain Valley. Please contact Brett Telford at (909) 965-2909 or at brett@socalcoins.com for details on future meetings.

www.socalcoins.com/OCACC.htm

# Ancient Numismatic Society of Washington, DC

Usually meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 2:00pm. Please join us for our programs and discussions of ancient numismatics and history. For more information, please contact First Consul Mike Mehalick at 301-552-2214, GENIOAVGVSTI@comcast.netorvisit http://answ.ancients.info.

# VANCOUVER ANCIENT COIN CLUB

The Vancouver, BC Ancient Coin Club usually meets the second Sunday of each month from 2-4 pm at the McGill Branch of the Burnaby Library, 4595 Albert Street, Burnaby, near Willingdon and Hastings. For more information, contact Paul at 604-314-4976 or email vanancientcoin@hotmail.com.

# Association of Dedicated Byzantine Collectors

Meets Saturday at 11:00 AM at major events: January NYINC, Summer ANA, with guest speaker and mutual display of treasures. Annual dues are \$10. Contact the Empress at Thalassa888@yahoo.com. Dues to ADBC, P.O. Box 585, Okemos, MI 48805-0585; (517) 349-0799.



# Club & Society Directory



# <u>WIN</u> Women In Numismatics

WIN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of numismatics among women through encouragement, education and networking. For further information, please contact our Secretary, Jacquie Flanigan, at Jacquie\_Flanigan@yahoo.com. www.womeninnumismatics.com

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area beyond. When a vote was taken (in Rome), each tribe had a single vote (Figure 1). Those citizens living in the outlying farm areas had more impact per vote than those living in the densely packed urban area, but it was a hardship to leave the farm to get to Rome. This tribal voting system kept the urban dwellers from making decisions that hurt the farmers upon whose productivity all Rome depended.

On the local level, there was the concilium plebis, or meeting of the people. This was the original plebian parliament, served to vote on and make decrees for its own kind. After 287 BC, the decisions were binding for the whole community.

Voting was pretty straightforward. Each citizen voted in the *comitia* and the courts via a *tabula*. Citizens were given two *tabulae*—one inscribed V.R. (*Uti Rogas*, or "I vote for the law") and A. (*Antiquo*, or "I am for



Figure 3–Q. Cassius Longinus, Roman Republic, AR Denarius, 55 BC. Curule chair within circular temple of Vesta; urn to left, voting tablet inscribed AC to right. Image courtesy of CNG, Inc.

the old law"), and the citizens placed their *tabula* vote in a *cista* to be counted (Figure 2).

#### Roman "Judicial Branch"

A plebeian, Terentilius, made the proposal in 462 BC to end the secret system so an official legal code could be published. In 449 BC, the "Laws of the Twelve Tables" was created and was the basis for law for the plebeians to

know what was within and outside of the law. Before this time, it was closely guarded by the pontifices and the patrician class was able to punish citizens by surprise. Roman law developed significantly over time and is the basis of modern day tort law and jurisprudence. In the courts, the judices (professional jurors) were given three tabulae by which to cast their vote—A. (Absolvo, or acquit), C. (Condemno, or guilty) and N.L (Non Liquet, or abstain) (Figure 3).

For those of you that are interested in reading more about this fascinating subject, here are some Internet resources on Roman law, government structure and voting:

http://ancienthistory.about.com/library/bl/bl\_comitia\_tributa.htm

http://www.the-romans.co.uk/assemblies.htm

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/ Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/secondary/ SMIGRA\*/Tabella.html

http://www.unrv.com/government/index-of-roman-laws.php

# **NYINC Room Block Open for Reservations**

MILWAUKEE, WI-The sleeping room block for the 41st Annual New York International Numismatic Convention (NY-INC) is now open to accept reservations, according to Convention Chairman Kevin Foley. The NYINC has events taking place over a nine-day period, from Saturday, January 5th, 2013 through Sunday, January 13th at the Waldorf=Astoria Hotel, located at 301 Park Avenue, site of the event since 2002. Auction lot viewing opens on Saturday, January 5th and concludes on Sunday, January 13th, with auction sessions sponsored by nine different companies held from Sunday, January 6th through Sunday, January 13th.

Bourse activities get underway from 2PM-7PM on Thursday, January 10th,

with the Professional Preview, during which dealers without booths as well as collectors, have access to the bourse dealers in advance of the general public for a \$100 registration fee. Public hours will be held the immediately following Friday and Saturday from 10AM-7PM and on Sunday from 10AM-3PM. The bourse area includes roughly 120 dealers from throughout the world specializing in foreign and ancient numismatic items. Registration during the Friday-Sunday public hours is \$10 for a three-day pass.

Kevin Foley, Bourse Chairman since 1999, said of the Professional Preview, "The NYINC Professional Preview is one of the most commercially active facets of any numismatic event anywhere in the world. A substantial number of our registrants come from outside the United States, while our U.S. based collectors attend knowing that they will have access to dealers they will not find at any other numismatic gathering anywhere in the United States. The dealers with booths respond to this by holding back special items to specifically unveil at the NYINC. This combination of fresh material, a wide range of booth holders, and an even wider range of attendees, makes for a truly electric atmosphere with the excitement being palpable."

Foley added, "The bourse area for the 2013 NYINC was totally sold out before the conclusion of our recent 2012

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