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GREEK COINS ACQUIRED
BY THE BRITISH MUSEUM IN
1913.

BY
G. F. HILL, M.A.

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GREEK COINS ACQUIRED BY THE BRITISH
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(See Plates VII., VIII.)

FROM the present account of the recent acquisitions I have omitted, as before, such coins, especially of Cyrenaica, as are likely to appear before long in the official *Catalogue*.

FISTELIA.

1. *Obv.*—Head of Athena r., wearing crested Athenian helmet adorned with owl (?) on olive branch.

Rev.—[Σ]ΙΥΥΕΤΣΙ[Σ] above forepart of human-headed bull swimming r.

Æ. ↙ 10 mm. Wt. 8·0 grs. (0·52 grm.).

[Pl. VII. 1.] Cp. Sambon, *Monn. Ant. de l'Italie*, p. 334, No. 839.

METAPONTUM.

2. *Obv.*—Head of Persephone l., crowned with barley, wearing triple-drop ear-ring.

Rev.—META on r. upwards; ear of barley, with leaf, on which is perched an alabastos; in field l. ΔΙ; concave field.

Æ. ↖ 20 mm. Wt. 116·0 grs. (7·52 grms.).

[Pl. VII. 2.]

This beautiful coin is apparently from the same

obverse die as the one sold at Munich in 1905.¹ It belongs to Head's period 330-300 B.C., and cannot be much later than the earlier date.

THURIUM.

3. *Obv.*—Head of Athena r., in crested Corinthian helmet, decorated with sea-horse.

Rev.—[Θ]ΟΥΡΠΙΩ[N] in exergue. Bull charging r.; above, owl flying r.

R. ← 19 mm. Wt. 96·4 grs. (6·25 grms.).
[Pl. VII. 4.] From a find made at Taranto.

This is one of the coins of the period 281-268 B.C., struck on the reduced standard to which Sir A. J. Evans called attention (*Horsemen*, p. 228), and with which Regling has also dealt (*Klio*, vi. p. 516).²

It may be noted that the Museum possesses five specimens of the class which combine the reduced weight with the old types (head in Attic helmet decorated with Scylla), viz. *B. M. C.* 70 and 95, and three others: (a) ΦΑ in exergue, 98·8 grs. (6·40 grms.) (Pl. VII. 6); (b) fish r. in exergue, 97·7 grs. (6·33 grms.); (c) ΣΩΙ above bull, hippocamp (?) r. in exergue, 84·0 grs. (5·44 grms.).

CAULONIA.

4. *Obv.*—KAV on l. downwards. Apollo standing r., wielding branch in r., holding small winged figure on

¹ Hirsch, *Katal.* xiv. Taf. ii. 101. Others which come close to it in style are *B. M. C.*, 114 (cp. Hirsch, *Katal.* xvi. Taf. ii. 111, and Feuardent Sale, Paris, June, 1913, Pl. i. 32) and the Lambros coin (Hirsch, *Katal.* xxix. Taf. ii. 52).

² The statement there made in Note 2 that *B. M. C.* 94 has a head in Corinthian helmet is not correct; the present is the first specimen of the class to be acquired by the British Museum.

l. hand ; in field r. stag standing r., head re-
verted. Guilloche border.

Rev.—Stag standing r.; border of fine dots; circular
incuse.

R. ↓ 22 mm. Wt. 113·0 grs. (7·32 grms.).
[Pl. VII. 7.] *Circa* 480 B.C. Restruck on a
Corinthian stater; the curved wing and hind-
quarters of the Pegasus are plainly visible on
the reverse.

CROTON.

5. *Obv.*—ϠϠO l. upwards, ΤΟϞ r. downwards; tripod ;
guilloche border.

Rev.—No inscr. ; similar type incuse ; hatched border.

R. ↑ 20 mm. Wt. 27·4 grs. (1·77 grms.).
[Pl. VII. 8.]

Apparently not a third, but a quarter, of the stater.
The only other instance of this denomination at Croton,
or anywhere in the Italic system, seems to be a coin
formerly in the Benson collection.³

6. *Obv.*—Tripod ; traces of linear border.

Rev.—Eagle with closed wings standing l., head re-
verted ; above and below it, O^O ; to l., remains
of Ϡ (?) ; concave field.

R. ↓ 11·5 mm. Wt. 13·2 grs. (0·85 grm.).
[Pl. VII. 3.] A diobol of the fifth century, of
apparently unpublished types.

RHEGIUM.

7. *Obv.*—Lion's scalp ; border of dots.

Rev.—H within a large O.

R. ↑ 8 mm. Wt. 4·4 grs. (0·29 grm.).
[Pl. VII. 5.]

³ Sale Catalogue, Sotheby's, February, 1909, lot 105, 28½ grs. I owe
the reference to Mr. Robinson.

The two letters on the reverse mark the denomination as a hemi-obol. The same method of naming the denomination is employed on a later copper coin of the same place (Payne Knight, *Num. Vet.*, p. 234, B. 1, under Heracleiae).

GELA.

8. *Obv.*—Slow quadriga r., passing meta; border of dots.

Rev.—C above, EAA r.; forepart of human-headed bull r., the neck wreathed with olive. Traces of incuse circle.

Æ. ↑ 29 mm. Wt. 261·3 grs. (16·93 grms.).
From the Virzi collection. [Pl. VII. 9.]

This coin, unfortunately not in the best state of preservation, is from the same obverse die as *B. M. C.* 10, and from the same die on both sides as the magnificent Jameson specimen,⁴ and another, of which an electrotype is in the British Museum.

MESSANA.

9. *Obv.*—Mule biga r., driven by charioteer; above, Nike flying r. to crown the mules; in exergue, leaf; border of dots.

Rev.—MEZZAN I ON around, beginning below; hare running r.; above, B. Dotted incuse circle.

Æ. ← 30·5 mm. Wt. 265·5 grs. (17·20 grms.). [Pl. VII. 12.]

Presented by Sir Athelstane Baines, C.S.I. The tetradrachm, *B. M. C.* 19 (from different dies on both sides), also shows B, but under the animal, whereas the drachm, *B. M. C.* 20, has it above, like the new

⁴ *Catal.* 581 = Burlington Fine Arts Club, Exhib. of Greek Art, 1903, No. 139.

tetradrachm. A tetradrachm with the older legend MESSENION (*B. M. C.* 16) has A above the hare.⁵ One is tempted to assume that this is a case of the numbering of issues; and this seems to be confirmed when we find C and D on coins of the same style (Benson Catalogue, Pl. vii. 230, and Sotheby's Catalogue, "A Bachelor," 1907, lot 70, Pl. iii. 42; MEZZANION⁶). If this series is continuous, then the coin marked A must belong to the year before the expulsion of the Samians (some time before 476 B.C.), while the others follow immediately on it.

MESEMBRÍA.

10. *Obv.*—Beardless head r., wearing crested helmet with cheek-pieces.

Rev.—Pelta-shaped shield, seen from inside; below and on it, M E T A; border of dots; concave field.

Æ. ↓ 12.5 mm. Wt. 29.1 grs. (1.89 grms.).
[Pl. VII. 11.]

Cp. Berlin *Beschreibung*, I. p. 189, Nos. 12, 13. The two marks which appear in the middle of the shield are the loops for the arm.

ORRHESCH (?).

11. *Obv.*—Centaur r., carrying a nymph in his arms; border of dots; chisel-cut.

Rev.—Quadripartite incuse square.

Æ. 21.5 mm. Wt. 122.4 grs. (7.93 grms.).
[Pl. VII. 10.]

⁵ Cp. Hirsch, *Katal.* xxix. No. 94.

⁶ A second specimen, with the D below the hare has recently been presented to the Museum by Mr. R. Taylor. Mr. E. J. Seltman, who called my attention to the Benson coin, also points out that E occurs in the Rollin and Feuarent coin (Catalogue, June 20, 1906, 469); but there the inscription is given as MEΣΣENION.

The only peculiarity of this specimen is its low weight. A specimen at Berlin (Babelon, *Traité*, 1478) weighs 8.10 grms., and a third in the British Museum (Montagu Sale, II. 99) 135.4 grs. (8.77 grms.). As the last rises just above the normal of the Euboic standard, these low weights must be taken as due to casual degradation of the "Babylonian" standard, and not to the adoption of the Euboic.

CORINTH.

12. *Obv.*—Pegasus flying r.; below, ϕ .

Rev.—Head of Athena r. in Corinthian helmet; behind, pileus and E. Concave field.

R. Stater \uparrow 24.5 mm. Wt. 128.8 grs.
(8.35 grms.). [Pl. VII. 13.]

First half of the fourth century.

MELOS.

13. *Obv.*— $M\eta\lambda\omicron\nu$ on stalk with two buds.

Rev.— $\Lambda\Lambda\Lambda$ in the four quarters of a four-spoked wheel, surrounded by border of dots in incuse circle.

R. 24 mm. Wt. 212.1 grs. (13.74 grms.).
[Pl. VII. 14.]

14. *Obv.*—Similar, the buds obscure.

Rev.— $\Lambda\Lambda\Lambda$; $C\Lambda$ around a triskeles of human legs turning to r.; border of dots; incuse circle.

R. 23 mm. Wt. 216.0 grs. (14.00 grms.).
[Pl. VII. 15.]

15. *Obv.*—Similar, but one bud and one leaf; border of dots.

Rev.— $\Lambda\Lambda\Lambda$; $C\Lambda$ around a crescent; border of dots; traces of incuse circle.

R. 22 mm. Wt. 212.1 grs. (13.74 grms.).
[Pl. VII. 16.]

From the famous Melos find.⁷ The acquisition of these specimens by the Museum is due to the generosity of Mr. Henry Oppenheimer, F.S.A. They correspond to M. Jameson's Nos. 9, 11, and 17; his No. 11 is from the same reverse die as our No. 14, and perhaps also from the same obverse; of the others it is not possible to judge.

In a note appended to M. Jameson's article is recorded the opinion of M. Svoronos, that the type of the obverse is not a pomegranate, as it was always supposed to be, but a quince; and Dr. A. B. Rendle, consulted on the question, agrees that the quince is a better identification than any other (such as lobed citron) which has been suggested.

IONIA.

16. *Obv.*—Pegasus with curved wing walking l.

Rev.—Two incuse squares side by side.

EL. \uparrow 14 mm. Wt. 72.5 grs. (4.70 grms.).
 [Pl. VIII. 1.] Specific gravity (approximately), 13.4; percentage of gold, according to Head's curve, 47.5. Presented by Mr. W. H. Buckler.

Of this rare coin, which belongs to some unidentified mint of the West Coast of Asia Minor, M. Babelon⁸ describes two other specimens, weighing 4 grs. 73 and 3 grs. 67. As thirds of the Milesian standard he assigns them to Southern Ionia or Caria. He associates with them the sixth in the British Museum with the forepart of Pegasus, but both by its style, and by the decorative treatment of the reverse, the smaller coin is shown to belong to a different category.

⁷ R. Jameson in *Rev. Num.*, 1909, pp. 188 ff.

⁸ *Traité*, II^e partie, p. 67, Nos. 71-72; Pl. ii. 25.

ΗΥΡΑΕΡΑ.

17. *Obv.*—ΑΥ ΚΑΙΤΙΑΙΑΔΡΙ ΑΝΤΩΝΙΝΟC Undraped bust of Pius r., laureate. Border of dots.

Rev.—ΕΠΙΑ ΠΟ Μ ΑΡΤΕΜΑ around, ΒΥΤΑΙΠΤΗΝ|ΩΝ in exergue; temple showing four columns, with phiale in pediment; within, cultus-figure of Artemis Anaitis, veiled, and holding two phialae in her extended hands. Border of dots.

Æ. ↓ 30 mm. Wt. 244 grs. (15·81 grms.).
[Pl. VIII. 2.] Presented by Mr. W. H. Buckler.

An unusually well-preserved specimen, from the same obverse die as *B. M. C. 22*. The type of the goddess does not bear the least resemblance to that of the Ephesian Artemis, with which it is the fashion to identify almost all primitive cultus-statues of goddesses represented on coins of Asia Minor and even Syria. The dress is an ordinary chiton with kolpos, such as would have been provided for a female figure by any artist of the sixth century B.C., in which period it is probable that most of the cultus-figures took the form in which they have come down to us.

ΝΥΣΑ.

18. *Obv.*—Cista mystica, with serpent issuing from it; all in ivy-wreath.

Rev.—Bow-case and bow between serpents; above, ΔΗ|ΙΕΡΕ|ΩΣ; on r. ς, and small figure of Dionysos standing l. with grapes (?) and thyrsos.

Æ cistophorus, ↑ 28 mm. Wt. 160·4 grs. (10·39 grms.). [Pl. VIII. 4].

Similar to the Vienna specimen: Regling in *Jahrb., Ergänzungsheft* x, p. 73. The date is 129–8 B.C.

19. *Obv.*--- - ΚΤΟΛΙΚΙΝΝ ΒΑΛΕΡ - - Bust of Valerian r. laureate; on the neck, uncertain countermark.

Rev.—ΕΠΦΜΑΥΡ Ι., ΛΑΙΑΝΟΥΝ r., ΥΓΑΕΩΝ below.
Rudely made prize crown containing branches and inscribed ΘΕΟΓΑΜΙΑ|ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙ|Κ Α

Æ. ↓ 34.5 mm. Wt. 227.2 grs. (14.72 grms.).
[Pl. VIII. 3.] Cp. Mionnet, iii. 372. 404;
Head, *B. M. C.*: *Lydia*, p. lxxxiii.

PHILADELPHIA AND SMYRNA.

20. *Obv.*--- - ΑΙΜΑΥ Ι., ΡΗΚΟΜΟΔΟΣ r. Undraped bust of Commodus r., laureate.

Rev.—ΟΡΕΣΤΕΙΝΟΣ Ι., - - ΕΛΦΚΣΜΥΡ r., ΟΜΟΝΟΙΑ in exergue. On l., Artemis r., wearing short chiton, r. taking arrow from quiver at shoulder, l. holding bow (?); on r., facing her, Nemesis (?) (details obscure).

Æ. ↓ 29 mm. Wt. 186.6 grs. (12.09 grms.).

Although poorly preserved this coin⁹ serves to correct the reading of the coin (Mionnet, *Suppl.*, vii. 403. 396), on which the supposition of the existence of a city Oresteion was based. See Imhoof-Blumer, *Griech. Münzen*, p. 720, No. 604, where the name of the magistrate Oresteinos is given as occurring on a quasi-autonomous coin.

21.

CYPRUS.

The late Sir Robert Hamilton Lang presented 394 small Cypriote coins, being the remainder of the hoard contained in two small jars discovered by him at Dali in 1869.¹⁰ Few of the types are new to the Museum, but

⁹ Apparently the same specimen which is described rather differently from a paper impression by Imhoof-Blumer, *Rev. Suisse*, 1913, p. 55. He thinks the goddess on the right may be Athena.

¹⁰ *Num. Chron.*, 1871, p. 17 f.

the acquisition of these remains of the hoard is valuable as illustrating the general appearance of the small silver currency of Cyprus towards the end of the fifth century B.C. The coins were all (with the exception of one stater) of small denominations, the heaviest being tetrobols of Azbaal I of Citium. This king (who came to the throne soon after 449) conquered Idalium, and since the only mints represented in the hoard are Citium, Amathus, Paphos, and Salamis, it would seem that the conquest resulted not only in the cessation of the independent Idalian coinage, but also in the calling in of such old coins of that mint as were current. Otherwise the hoard would probably have contained some tetrobols of Idalium. A study of the hoard serves to correct my dating of the small one-sided ram's head obols of Salamis (*B. M. C. : Cyprus*, Pl. ix. 7-9). The presence of fairly well-preserved specimens of these in a hoard which dates from the latter half of the fifth century, and which contains apparently no coins of the early fifth century, shows that these obols are not of the time of Euelthon, as I had supposed, but a good deal later.

LAPETHUS.

22. *Obv.*—BA on r., downwards; krater (kylix-form).

Rev.—ΠΡ on r., downwards; head of Apollo l., with short hair, laureate; concave field.

Æ. ↑ 15 mm. Wt. 36.9 grs. (2.39 grms.).
[Pl. VIII. 5]. Presented by the late Lt.-Col.
R. Manifold Craig.

The coin is attributed to Praxippos, the king of Lapethus, who was deposed by Ptolemy in 313-2 B.C. See *B. M. C. : Cyprus*, p. liii f.

SELEUCUS I.

23. *Obv.*—Head of young Herakles r., wearing lion-skin; border of dots.

Rev.—ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ in exergue, ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ r., downwards; Zeus aëtophoros seated l.; in field l. ΑΣΤ and monogram Ϝ (?); beneath throne Α; border of dots.

R. ← 28 mm. Wt. 259·5 grs. (16·82 grms.).
[Pl. VIII. 7.]

SELEUCUS III.

24. *Obv.*—Head of Seleucus III. r., with whisker, wearing diadem of which one end flies up; border of dots.

Rev.—ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ r., downwards; ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ l., downwards; Apollo, nude, seated l. on omphalos, resting l. on bow, holding arrow in r.; in field l. Υ .

R. ↑ 30 mm. Wt. 260·5 grs. (16·88 grms.).
[Pl. VIII. 8.] The object in the field is doubtless meant for the monogram which occurs on *B. M. C.*, No. 1.

ANTIOCHUS III.

25. *Obv.*—Head of Antiochus r., wearing diadem with short ends, falling straight; border of dots.

Rev.—ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ r., downwards; ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ l., downwards; Apollo, nude, seated l. on omphalos, resting l. on bow, holding arrow in r.; in field l. Α, r. Ϝ ; in exergue, humped bull charging l.

R. ↑ 30·5 mm. Wt. 262 grs. (16·98 grms.).
[Pl. VIII. 9.] From Aleppo.

Cp. Macdonald, *Hunter Catal.*, iii. p. 31, No. 7. The portrait is exactly the same as that on the British Museum stater catalogued under Antiochus III (*B. M. C.* :

Seleucid Kings, p. 25, No. 3), and the left-hand monogram also occurs on No. 7 of the same series.

TIMARCHUS.

26. *Obv.*—Head of Timarchus r., helmeted; fillet border.

Rev.—[ΒΑΣΙΛ]ΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ in arc above, ΤΙΜΑΡΧΟΥ in exergue.

℞. ← 29 mm. Wt. 256 grs. (16·59 grms.).
[Pl. VIII. 10.]

This coin, which was procured in Persia, is the third known specimen of the tetradrachm of the usurper who ruled for a few months in Babylon in 162 B.C., having set himself up against Demetrius I; the others are that which was re-struck by Demetrius I and Laodice with their own types (*B. M. C. : Seleucid Kings*, Pl. xv. 2) and that formerly in the E. F. Weber collection.¹¹ The gold stater and the silver drachm are even rarer, being represented by specimens, unique so far as we know, in the Berlin and London cabinets.

The types and the regal style (*Βασιλέως Μεγάλου*) are evidently inspired by the coins of Eucratides of Bactria. The tetradrachm shows signs of being re-struck over older types. The marks outside the fillet border above the head may possibly be the remains of spear-heads. Was a coin of Eucratides with the charging Dioscuri used by Timarchus as a blank?

TYRE.

27. *Obv.*—Dolphin r., over waves; above, Phoenician inscription, 𐤀𐤋 𐤒𐤓𐤕; border of dots.

¹¹ Hirsch, *Katal.* xxi. 4078. This and the new coin have different reverse dies, but the obverse die is possibly the same.

Rev.—Owl standing r., with flail and crooked sceptre ;
incuse square.

Æ. ↖ 14 mm. Wt. 49·3 grs. (3·19 grms.).
[Pl. VIII. 6.] From the Hirsch Sale, *Katal.*
xxxii. (1912), lot 587.

The inscription on a similar half-shekel has been read by Babelon,¹² ma-hatsi ke[šeph]. But of the two signs which follow the denomination on the present specimen the first is clearly not a kaph, and the two together seem to represent a number, viz. 11. The gimel-shaped sign for 10 occurs on coins of Aradus, though not, so far as I know, elsewhere on Phoenician coins ; but there was much variety in the numeral systems of this district. The inscription, therefore, seems to mean “ half shekel of the eleventh year ; ” the era, of course, is uncertain.

HISPANO-CARTHAGINIAN.

28. *Obv.*—Head of Heracles l., beardless, laureate, with club over r. shoulder ; border of dots.

Rev.—Elephant walking r. ; border of dots ; concave field.

Æ. ↑ 26 mm. Wt. 172·3 grs. (11·16 grms.).
[Pl. VIII. 11.] From Feuardent's Sale, Hôtel
Drouot, 10 Juin, 1913, lot 360.

The tridrachm of the Barcid coinage of the mint of Carthago Nova was hitherto unrepresented in the British Museum. For the tetradrachm recently acquired, see *Num. Chron.*, 1913, p. 274.

¹² *Traité*, II. 983.



BRITISH MUSEUM, GREEK ACQUISITIONS, 1913.

