

ON AN ELECTRUM STATER.

POSSIBLY OF EPHEBUS.

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THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF LONDON

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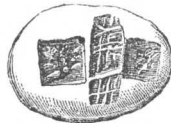


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ON AN ELECTRUM STATER, POSSIBLY OF EPHEBUS.

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IN the collection of the Bank of England, now deposited in the British Museum, is an electrum stater, obtained by Borrell at Smyrna in 1825, and attributed by Mionnet, *Suppl.* vi. p. 213, No. 896, to Erythræ, in Ionia, an attribution which Borrell does not admit in his remarks, *Num. Chron.* vii. p. 65.

As neither Mionnet nor Borrell have correctly read the inscription on this coin, I take this opportunity of re-publishing it. It may be thus described:—

Obv.—Stag to the right, grazing, around ΦΑΕΝΟΡΕΜΙ
ΣΕΜΑ.

Rev.—Oblong sinking placed between two square sinkings.

The treatment of the stag, and the forms of the letters show that this coin belongs to the archaic period. From the evidence of the palæography, I should be disposed to assign it to the same period as the statues which I brought from Branchidæ, viz., some time between the fortieth and sixtieth Olympiad—B.C. 620 to 540.

So far as I know, no other inscribed coin in electrum of so early a date has ever been discovered. This stater was no doubt struck by some city on the western coast of Asia Minor. Its *provenance* was unknown to Borrell, and the attribution to Erythræ by Mionnet rests on a misreading of the last three letters of the inscription. The type of a stag seems to connect this coin with Ephesus, though there is no other evidence in support of such an attribution.

Of the three words which compose the legend on this coin, the last two present no difficulty—EMI ΣΗΜΑ, "I am the coin," is a form analogous to the legend ΤΩΝ ΓΕΛΟΙΩΝ ΕΜΙ on a bronze weight, published by Böckh, C. i. 8521, and may be further compared with the ΓΟΡΤΥΝΟΣ ΤΟ ΣΑΙΜΑ on General Fox's coin of Gortyna, with the ΣΕΥΘΑ ΚΟΜΜΑ and ΣΕΥΘΑ ΑΡΙΥΠΙΟΝ on the coins of Seuthes, King of Thrace, and with the ΑΧΕΛΟΙΟ ΑΘΑΟΝ on a silver coin of Metapontum. The analogy of these legends proves that the first word in the legend of the Bank stater must be considered as a genitive. "I am the coin of such a city or ruler." This word I read ΦΑΕΝΟΡ, and suppose the final R to have been used instead of Σ, as in the Æolic and Laconian dialects, see Böckh, i. p. 28; Ahrens, De Dial. Dor., p. 70; and as on the celebrated Elean rhetra on a bronze plate, Böckh, C. i. 11, where we find τοιρ for τοις, and τιρ for τις. If this reading is correct, the genitive, φαειως, could only be formed from φαεινω, which does not seem a probable name for a place.¹ The weight of this

¹ If we could suppose this coin to have been struck at Ephesus, φαεινώ, "the bright one," may be an epithet of Artemis. The legend would then read, "I am the coin of the bright one," *i.e.*, of Artemis; in other words, the stater would

coin is 216·3 grs., showing that it belongs to the lighter standard, ranging from 216 to 220 grs., which is found in the staters attributed to Ephesus, Miletus, Chios, and Samos. The peculiar triple incuse occurs on a coin described in the Payne Knight Catalogue, A 1., p. 118, and which, having the fore part of the lion on the obverse, has been consequently attributed to Miletus. This coin weighs 217·8 grs. Another stater, with a similar incuse, and slightly different obverse, weighs 215·3.

On the Bank coin the long E is used, as in the Branchidæ inscriptions and other examples of Ionic palæography. The third letter of the first word is so blurred that it may be either E or I, or possibly N. I prefer to read *φαενώ*, supposing this to be the Æolic form of *φαινώ*. Both forms, *φαινώ* and *φαενώ*, are found in Pape's *Wörterbuch d. Griech. Eigennamen*.

have been so marked to show that it was issued from the mint of the Temple of the Ephesian Artemis. See the Memoir by Curtius recently translated by Mr. Head in *N.C.*, x. p. 91.