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ONS News

ORIENTAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Secretary General
Nicholas Rhodes,
28 Napier Gardens, Hythe,
Kent CT21 6DD, U.K.

Newsletter Editor:
Mr. S. Goron,
74 Outram Road, Croydon,
Surrey, CR0 6XF, U.K.
e-mail: s.goron@cableinet.co.uk

Regional Secretaries:
General: Mr. R. Senior,
Butleigh Court Tower, Butleigh,
Glastonbury, Soms, BA6 8SA, U.K.

Europe: Mr. J. Lingen,
Dr. A. Schweitzerstr. 29,
2861 XZ Bergambacht, Netherlands.
E-mail: lingen@wxs.nl

U.K. & Eire: Mr. P. Smith,
9 Grandison Road, London SW11 6LS, U.K.
E-mail: peter.smith@9grandison.freemove.co.uk

America: Mr. C. Karukstis,
P.O. Box 1528, Claremont,
CA 91711, U.S.A.
e-mail: charlie@charliek.com

South Asia: Farokh Todywalla,
80 Todywalla House, Ardeshir Dady Street,
Khetwadi - Bombay 400 004,
India.

Pakistan Chapter: Mr. S. M. Mirza,
2-98-E Panorama Centre, Blue Area,
Islamabad, Pakistan.

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Jena

ONS regional meeting 5-6th May 2001

Collectors and scholars of Oriental coinages met this year for the second time in the city of Jena/Thuringia in the heartland of Germany on the first weekend in May. The pride of the University is one of the largest collection of Oriental coins in Germany. Norbert Nebes, director of the Oriental Coin Cabinet and Professor of Semitic Philology and Islamic Studies, welcomed the ca. 45 participants, including Jan Lingen as official representative of the ONS. The participants arrived from many states of the EU and Switzerland. The meeting was organised by S. Heidemann and Tobias Mayer.

Martin Huth, Berlin: Imitations of Athenian Coins from the Kingdom of Qataban

the mint name however is taken by a word *dawariya* or *dawaziya*. These coins are much smaller and of lesser weight, probably as a fraction of the heavy coppers. As no placename is recorded for the Yemen that would match the grapheme visible on the coins, the paper discussed an alternative interpretation of it as a term for a denomination. From 13th century Mecca and 17th century Yemen the monetary term *dars*, pl. *durras* and *dawaris*, is reported for copper coins of the lowest value. As the meaning of the word points to worn pieces it was supposed that the word *dars* is an equivalent of the Syrian and Egyptian term *'atiq*, used for recalled copper coins that were still allowed in circulation at copper value. However it seems unlikely that such a term could be used on a freshly minted coin. Nevertheless the alternative of a denomination term is not to be excluded, because *dawari* is also known as an Iranian coin name, which might have been introduced in the Yemen via India. The verdict remains open on this.

Johann-Christoph Hinrichs, Bremen: Marks on Ottoman weights

A couple of years ago it was still possible to find quite a few Ottoman weights, especially the ringweights in Turkish Bazaars. The weight standard was mostly based on the Ottoman Dirham of 3.207363 g. In 1869, the metric system was introduced in the Ottoman empire, but took a long time before it became the dominant system. Weights were still produced according to the dirham-standard in the time of the Republic, that means after 1922. The marks which were struck into the weights can be divided into the following groups: 1) the Tughra and representations of Ottoman power. The earliest Tughra encountered on weights is that of Mahmud I with the year 1143 (1730 AD). 2) Names of places where the weights were made (in the known cases only Tophane in Istanbul is mentioned) or the place where the weights were issued or checked. 3) Islamic dates, with and without months and also Christian "international" dates; 4) information on the weight standard used, such as dirham, gram, kilo, qiyte and ounces; 5) marks of guarantee; 6) names of artisans or 7) officials; 8) arabesques, palmettos and similar ornaments; 9) abbreviations; 10) non-Arabic script punches, such as Ottoman ones with Latin or Greek characters, or non-Ottoman ones; 11) adjustment marks; 12) doubtful marks; 13) graffiti and 14) forgeries

Hans Wilski, Sulzbach: Countermarks of Lemnos on Ottoman Copper Coins

It is well known that since 1880 Greek communities and churches struck countermarks on obsolete Ottoman copper coins. But so far only little is known about the countermarks used on the island of Lemnos (see H. Wilski: Countermarks on Ottoman Coins, Gütersloh, Strothotte, 1995). The following speculations may perhaps help to fill the gap: In a hoard of about 800 countermarked coins only the marks Π+K and ΑΓ:K were found, both similar in style. Since the first mark can be read with good reason as Π(αγαία) Κ(αίνιον), it is obvious to read the other mark 'ΑΓ(100) Κ(ωσταντίνοσ) and to attribute it to Romanou, a village in the neighbourhood of Kaminia. The well known mark Α is cut in a similar manner, therefore it is assumed that it comes from Α(τσική), Atsiki, also situated in the vicinity of Kaminia. For the countermark ΘΑ, Tzamalís proposed the reading ΘΑ(voς), Thanos, since there is no other place in Greece starting with these two letters. The mark ΠΑ+ΤΣ can be read only as ΠΑ(αγία) ΤΣ(μάνδριας), Holy Virgin of Tsimandria. The mark ΕΚΣΦ may be read in a similar way as ΕΚ(κλησία) Σ(ο)Φ(φίας). The name of the "minting place" is Agia Sofia. The letters indicate that the countermark originates from the church of the village and is not issued by the municipality. Finally Wilski would like to remind readers that all these "decodings" are preliminary speculations. Comments are always welcome.

Celil Ender, Istanbul: Three German medals minted in Istanbul

The middle of the 19th century was a period of major reforms in the Ottoman Empire. This brought many people from Germany, France, Great Britain and other nations to Istanbul. Many of them

settled in Pera, the upper district of Galata in Istanbul. They formed clubs in order to maintain their social life to which they were accustomed. One of these was the German "Teutonia Club". It organised many activities: celebrations, concerts, sport events, a library and even the German School. The Teutonia Club found its home at 95 Galib Dede Street. At the end of World War I the Galata area was occupied by the British and the archives of the Teutonia Club destroyed. In 1944 the political relations between Germany and Turkey ceased. The Club was sequestered and only handed back and reopened in 1954 when normal relations resumed. Although the Ottoman government forbade the production of medals by any foundation or individual from outside the government, the Teutonia Club struck its own medals.

The first medal (Aluminium; 3.9 g; 30 mm) was made for the German Sports Club. The Galata Tower is depicted on the obverse with the date 1892 and a surrounding inscription: ERINNERUNG AN CONSTANTINOPEL. The reverse shows an oak-leaf wreath with four letters "F", which stand for "frisch, fromm, fröhlich, frei (fresh, pious, happy, free)", and with a surrounding inscription: DEUTSCHER TURNVEREIN * CONSTANTINOPEL *.

The second and third medal are from the German Artisans Society: No. 2 (nickel; 10.70 g; 28 mm) was minted on the occasion of the club's 25th anniversary. A symbolic handshake dominates the centre of the obverse within an oak-leaf wreath and an inscription DEUTSCHER HANDW. VEREIN, GEGR. 16. FEBR. 1861, *CONSTANTINOPEL*. And on the reverse: ZUR ERINNERUNG AN SEIN 25. JÄHRIGES STIFTUNGSFEST * 16. FEBR. 1886 *. The third medal (bronze; 14 g, 32 mm) is made for the 50th anniversary of the same society. The obverse is much the same, but with an olive wreath. On the reverse: ZUR ERINNERUNG AN DIE 50 JÄHRIGE JUBELFEIER 1911.

The next annual regional meeting will be organised by Lutz Ilisch, Forschungsstelle für Islamische Numismatik in Tübingen (lutz.ilisch@uni-tuebingen.de), for the first weekend in May 2002.

Stefan Heidemann