

**BYZANTIAN GOLD COINS
FOUND IN THE EXCAVATIONS
AT ENEZ (ANCIENT AINOS)
IN THRACE**

AFİF ERZEN - İSMAİL KAYGUSUZ

Enez, founded in the mouth of Meriç River (ancient Hebros) on the North Aegean coast had a very important role in Ancient times as a safe harbour and military significance as a great harbour city on the Europe-Asia coastal route extended in the east-west direction.

Enez was settled in very early times because it was the only safe harbour in Ancient times on the Northern Aegean coast extended from Taşoz Strait (ancient Thasos) up to Dardanelles, as well as, it had a fertile hinterland due to Ergene Basin.

As a matter of fact, the name of Enez (Ainos) is seen in Homeros' Illiad but the records in the books of ancient writers like Strabo and Stephanos Byzantinos date back to the settlement of earlier times. On the other hand, according to Herodotus', Thukydidies' and Skylax' records, Enez had close cultural and political relations with the Aegean world and Athens.

In the Middle Age, during the Byzantian period Enez was the center of a principedom encompassing Imroz Island (ancient Imbroz) and Semadirek (ancient Samothrake).

Especially the coins, plastic works of art and ceramic findings of the 5th century B.C. evince the high level that Enez reached in the Ancient Age. It is clear that Enez retained this cultural level throughout all the Ancient Age and did not let it decline also in the Middle Age.

As a matter of fact, the archeological excavations we have realised since 1971 at Enez proved this fact.

The excavations fulfilled both in and out of the Fortress showed that Enez was continuously settled from the Grece Archaic Period until the Ottoman Period. During the excavations eleven Byzantian coins, one in the Fortress and ten around were found. These coins are distinctive on account of their places and their positions at the time of unearthing. At the same time their characteristics are also interesting.

During the excavations in 1980, apart from the Ottoman and Byzantine ceramics, the first Byzantine coin of the 12th century was found in the wall, extended to the northwest-southeast direction, at the right side of the entrance to the Fortress, in the west of the excavation area where an edifice erected by of treating the bedrock (See A. Erzen, *Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı III*, 1981, p. 87; *Arkeoloji ve Sanat* 24/27, 1985, p. 8, Fig. 15).

The other ten coins were found under the foot of a stone wall of a sacred edifice with an apse (a church) unearthed in 1983 after sounding the district called "Kral Kızı", in the east of Enez town (see, pl. VII, Fig. 3).

These coins were attained 1.20 m. deeper than the surface of the earth and at the northern corner of the wall. They were in a little, light red and necked ceramic vase (see. pl. I, Fig. 1, 2, 3).

Now, the coins are in the Archeological Museum of Edirne. They were one by one graded and it was judged that the standard purity of all was 22 whereas their weights varied between 4.30-4.50 gm. As for the shape, the coins were minted concave (See A. Erzen, *Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı VI*, 1984, XIII-XVI; here 1-3).

One of the gold coins is Alexius Comnenus' (1081-1118) while nine of them belong to John II Comnenus (1118-1143) and the other one to a Byzantine Emperor named Isaac II Angelus (1185-1195).

These coins cover nearly a hundred year period consisting of the first emperors of the Comnenus Dynasty (1081-1185) and the first important emperor of the Angelus Dynasty (1185-1204), Isaac II. This shows that the gold coins is really a collections buried in the earth, as well as the latest coin can be an *antequem* for the sacred edifice (the church); that is to say the church must be built before Emperor Isaacc's reign (1185-1195). Thus, the coins belong to the Comnenus' period, the 12th century A.D., and it is possible to list them as follows:

ALEXIUS COMNENUS (1081-1118)

1) Inv. No.	:	B 326/2011
Dimensions		
Diameter	:	2.70 × 2.50 cm.
Thickness	:	0.05 cm.
Weight	:	4.40 gm.
Definition		
Obverse	:	Solidus (concave). Emperor Alexius, in a

gown ornamented with pearls; standing; frontal; holding a scepter in one hand and a cross in the other. Vertical legend on both sides of the emperor: A/Λε/ΞΙ/ω/ΔεC/πo/T = [T]/ω/Ko/MNH/N/ω.

Reverse : (Convex). Jesus Christ, seated on a very simple throne; frontal; in a tight mantle; his right elbow slightly bent and his hand raised. On both sides of the halo there are monograms' I(ήCo) ζ X (φῆσTo) ζ and the legend on the right and left of the throne + ΚεRo/Hoε|CK(υρι) ε βοηθει ("O Lord! Help!") (Pls. II, Fig. 1, 2).

Bibliography : Ratt. No. 2054; Sab. 2; Wr. 2; Morriison, pp. 665-687, Pls. XCIII-XCV

JOHN II COMNENUS (1118-1143)

First Type

2) Inv. No. : B-322/2007

Dimensions

Diameter : 2.75 × 2.80 cm.

Thickness : 0.05 cm.

Weight : 4.50 gm.

Definition

Obverse : Solidus (concave). Virgin Mary, crowning and blessing Emperor John II upon his ascending to the throne. At the same level with her shoulder there is a monogram $\overline{M-P}$; at the same level with her head there is another monogram $\overline{\theta V}$. John II, standing in a gown, holding a round headed scepter. Vertical legend: Iω/ΔεC/πo/TH

Reverse : (Convex). Jesus Christ, wrapped up in a large mantle; seated on a throne; frontal. Jesus Christ's face and the monogram \overline{IC} , [\overline{XC}]; [+ $\overline{Kε Po|Hθε|}$] on his right side are indistinctive. (Pls. II, Fig. 3, 4).

Bibliography : Ratt. No. 2092; Sab. 1; Wr. 2; Morriison, pp. 689-699, Pl. XCVI; Whitting. *ibid*.

3) Inv. No. : B-323/2008

Dimensions

Diameter : 2.80 × 2.75 cm.

Thickness : 0.046 cm.

Weight : 4.40 gm.

Definition

Obverse : Solidus (concave). Virgin Mary, in a long chiton; crowning and blessing Emperor John II with her right hand. Although his monograms are in good condition, his legend is indistinctive to a great extent: [Iω/Δε]C/πo/T[H]

Reverse : (Convex). Jesus Christ, seated on an ornamented throne; frontal. Legends IC XC and + KεRo/Hθel (Pls. III, Fig. 1, 2).

Bibliography : Ratt. No. 2092; Sab. 1; Wr. 2; Morrisson, *ibid.*; Whitting, *ibid.*

4) Inv. No. : B-324/2009

Dimensions

Diameter : 2.75 × 2.70 cm.

Thickness : 0.05 cm.

Weight : 4.40 gm.

Definition

Obverse : Solidus, same type (concave). Vertical legend Iω,/[Δε/C [π] o/T/H Monogram θV MP

Reverse : Depiction and the legend IθH/ + KεR
 /O × -O I are the reverse of the obverse (Pls. III, Fig. 3, 4).

Bibliography : Ratt. No. 2093; Wr. 5; Morrisson, *ibid.*

5) Inv. No. : 194/1451

Dimensions

Diameter : 2.80 × 2.60 cm.

Thickness : 0.04 cm.

Weight : 4.40 gm.

Definition : Solidus, same type (convex). IC
 XC, [Iθ] θH/KεP[o] (Pls. IV, Fig. 1, 2).

6) Inv. No. : B-325/2010

Dimensions

Diameter : 3.10 × 2.70 cm.

Thickness : 0.04 cm.

Weight : 4.40 gm.

Definition : On both sides, there are the same depictions and legends with the coins 2 and 3 (Pls. IV, Fig. 3, 4).



Res. 1 — Fig. 1



Res. 2 — Fig. 2



Res. 3 — Fig. 3



Res. 1 - Ön yüz — Fig. 1 - Obverse



Res. 2 - Arka yüz — Fig. 2 - Reverse



Res. 3 - Ön yüz — Fig. 3 - Obverse



Res. 4 - Arka yüz — Fig. 4 - Reverse



Res. 1 - Ön yüz — Fig. 1 - Obverse



Res. 2 - Arka yüz — Fig. 2 - Reverse



Res. 3 - Ön yüz — Fig. 3 - Obverse



Res. 4 - Arka yüz — Fig. 4 - Reverse



Res. 1 - Ön yüz — Fig. 1 - Obverse



Res. 2 - Arka yüz — Fig. 2 - Reverse



Res. 3 - Ön yüz — Fig. 3 - Obverse



Res. 4 - Arka yüz — Fig. 4 - Reverse



Res. 1 - Ön yüz — Fig. 1 - Obverse



Res. 2 - Arka yüz — Fig. 2 - Reverse



Res. 3 - Ön yüz — Fig. 3 - Obverse



Res. 4 - Arka yüz — Fig. 4 - Reverse



Res. 1 - Ön yüz — 1 - Obverse



Res. 2 - Arka yüz — Fig. 2 - Reverse



Res. 3 - Ön yüz — Fig. 3 - Obverse



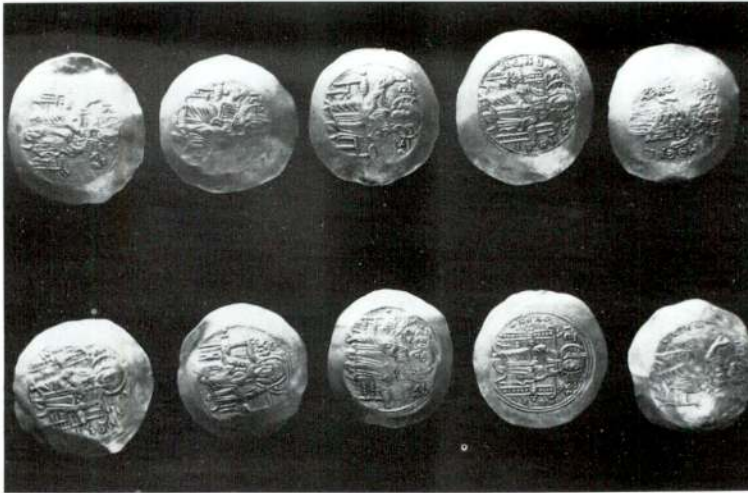
Res. 4 - Arka yüz — Fig. 4 - Reverse



Res. 2-Arka yüz— Fig. 2-Obverse



Res. 1-Ön yüz— Fig. 1-Reverse



Res. 3 — Fig. 3

Bibliography : Ratt. No. 2029; Sab. 1; Wr. 2

Second Type

7) Inv. No. : B-321/2006

Dimensions

Diameter : 2.60 × 2.75 cm.

Thickness : 0.04 cm.

Weight : 4.20 gm.

Definition

Obverse : Solidus (concave). Legend relating to the emperor is indistinctive. Virgin Mary, blessing the emperor with a cross. It is probable that there is a round legend on the arm of the emperor: [̄Iω ΔεCπoTH]

Reverse : Jesus Christ, depicted roughly in a large mantle; seated. On his both sides, the same monograms and legends with the other coins: [I]C-[XC] KεRo|Hθe| (Pls. V, Fig. 1, 2),

Bibliography : Ratt. No. 2094, 2095, 2096 in a different style; Wr. 12

8) Inv. No. : B-329/2014

Dimensions

Diameter : 2.50 × 2.80 cm.

Thickness : 0.05 cm.

Weight : 4.20 gm.

Definition

Obverse : Same type, minted in a different style.

Legend: [̄Iω] ΔεCπoTH, θV M-P

Reverse : (Convex). Jesus Christ, older; seated on a throne.

Monograms ̄IC-̄XC (Pls. V, Fig. 3, 4).

Bibliography : Ratt. No. 2094, 2095

- 9) Inv. No. : B-320/2005
 Dimensions :
 Diameter : 2.70 × 2.65 cm.
 Thickness : 0.05 cm.
 Weight : 4.30 gm.
 Definition : Same type and style with the coin 8.
 Legends $\overline{\theta V} \overline{MP} [\overline{\omega \Delta \epsilon C \pi o T H}] ; \overline{IC} \overline{XC}$ (Pls. VI, Fig. 1, 2).
 Bibliography : Ratt. No. 2094, 2095

Third Type

- 10) Inv. No. : B-328/2013
 Dimensions :
 Diameter : 3.00 × 2.70 cm.
 Thickness : 0.02 cm.
 Weight : 4.20 gm.
 Definition :
 Obverse : Solidus (concave). Virgin Mary, crowning and blessing Emperor John II. Name of the emperor hardly legible; holding a scepter in his hand. Vertical legend on both sides $[\overline{\omega}] \overline{\Delta \epsilon C} / \overline{\pi o} / \overline{[T]} \overline{\omega} - \overline{\phi v} | \overline{\pi o} | \overline{\Gamma \epsilon} | \overline{NHIT}$
 Reverse : (Convex). Jesus Christ, seated on an ornamented throne; his right hand raised. On both sides there are monograms: \overline{ICXC} (Pl. VI, Fig. 3, 4).
 Bibliography : Ratt. No. 2097; Sab. 2; Wr. 41; Morriison, *ibid.*

ISAAC II ANGELUS (1185-1195)

- 11) Inv. No. : B-327/2012
 Dimensions :
 Diameter : 2.60 × 2.75 cm.
 Thickness : 0.04 cm.
 Weight : 4.50 gm.
 Definition :
 Obverse : Solidus (concave). Emperor Isaac, holding a scepter in his hand; St. Michael, beside him; blessing the emperor.

Legend: ΙCAKΙOC [ΔΕCΠ] APXM.

Reverse : (Convex). Virgin Mary, older; seated on a throne; frontal. Monogram M-P [ΘV] (Pls. VII, Fig. 1, 2).

Bibliography : Ratt. No. 2174-2179; Sab. 2; Wr. 13-14; Morrisson, pp. 739-749; Pls. CII-CIII

ABBREVIATIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Inv. No.	Inventory number given by the Archeological Museum of Edirne
Morrisson	Cécile MORRISSON, <i>Catalogue des Monnaies Byzantines de la Bibliothèque Nationale, Tome deuxième</i> , Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, 1970.
Ratt.	Rudolfo RATTO, <i>Monnaies Byzantines</i> , Amsterdam, 1959
Sab.	Y. SABATIER, <i>Description de Monnaies Byzantines</i> , Paris, 1862
Whitting	P.D. Whitting, <i>Deutsche Übersetzung: Alfred, P-Zaller, Münzen von Byzanz</i> , 1973, E. Rottenberg. <i>Johannes II Komnenos (1118-1143)</i> . p. 185, Figs. 280-281
Wr.	Warwick, WROTH, <i>Catalogue of Imperial Byzantine Coins in the British Museum</i> , London, 1908

