

A HOARD OF LYCIAN STATERS IN FETHİYE MUSEUM

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The hoard consists of 19 silver staters of an unidentifiable Lycian dynast. As such they represent an important group of examples from the early coinage of Lycia. The hoard was acquired by Fethiye Museum in 1992 after it was confiscated by the police during an operation against antiquities' smugglers. This group of coins may have belonged to a larger hoard that was quickly dispersed after discovery. So, for example, another group of 5 similar coins was also acquired by Fethiye Museum as a result of the same operation¹.

The study of Lycian coinage was initiated by Sir Charles Fellows in 1855, but the first comprehensive work on this subject was compiled by Ernest Babelon and published in his *Traité* during the early part of this century². However, despite increasing interest in the early history, language and inscriptions of Lycia over the past 40 years, there remain many lacunae in our knowledge of its coinage. Finds such as the present hoard thus provide an important source of new information.

The present coins are all of the same type, although it is clear that they come from different dies. The coins also display a marked variation in weight; for example, the heaviest is 9.40 g., while the lightest weighs only 6.71 g. On the obverse they depict a snuffling boar and on the reverse a tortoise. They are thus attributable to the second series of Lycian dynastic issues, as first established by Babelon. In the British Museum Catalogue Hill

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¹ Coin Hoards VIII, ed. U. Wartenberg, M. Jessop Price & K.A. McGregor, London 1994, no. 32: western Lycia/eastern Caria, 1992. M. Arslan & A. Dervişağaoğlu, forthcoming.

² C. Fellows, *Coins of Ancient Lycia before the Reign of Alexander*, London 1855; E. Babelon, *Traité des monnaies grecques et romaines, tom. I-IV*, Paris 1901-1933.

dated this series to c. 500-460 BC, but von Aulock later gave it a timespan extending as far as c. 440 BC³.

These coins are not commonly found in western collections; the Cabinet des Medailles in Paris contains only 2 examples, the British Museum has 4, the von Aulock collection another 4, while a single example has been published from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts⁴. Likewise, the type rarely appears in known hoards; for example, in the rightly famous Elmalı Hoard, containing more than 970 Lycian issues, only one example of this type has been identified⁵. Auction catalogues very infrequently offer examples for sale; an important group, comprising 5 examples, were presented in the Lanz Sale in Munich in 1994, while a single example was recently offered for sale by the Classical Numismatic Group⁶. In effect, this means that the Fethiye Museum collections contain by the far the largest number of known coins of this type for, in addition to the present hoard and the other small group of 5 examples already noted, the museum also has a number of such coins that were acquired separately⁷. However, this hoard of 19 coins is a very significant addition to our knowledge, since it not only represents the largest single find of this type but it also allows us to study it in more detail.

Within the second series the boar on the obverse generally faces right, but on a few examples the animal faces left. Amongst the present hoard one example of the latter type is to be found (cat. no. 5). The hoard may also be divided into two sections as follows:- cat. nos. 1-7 would appear to be early issues within the series, for all come from different dies and weigh over 9.00 g., while the remaining coins, cat. nos. 8-19, are generally lighter and were

³ BMC Lycia, p. 4, nos. 17-21; SNG von Aulock, nos. 4072-4074.

⁴ A.B. Brett, *Catalogue of Greek Coins*, repr. New York 1974, no. 2082. There is also an unpublished example in the Anatolian Civilizations Museum in Ankara; cf. also S. Pozzi. *Catalogue Monnaies Grecques Antiques*. Geneva. 1921. (reprinted) no. 2743.

⁵ CH VIII, no. 48. The coin is presently to be found in the collections of William Kock, Jeffrey Spier and Jonathan H. Kagan; inv. no. 826, weight 9.26 g., axis 8h. This information was obtained from the archives assembled by Özgen Acar, who as a researcher and journalist first revealed the story of the Elmalı Hoard to the general public.

⁶ Numismatik Lanz, Auktion 68, Münzen der Antike, 6 June 1994, nos. 211-15; CNG Auction 42, May 29-30, New York 1997, lot 520.

⁷ The collections of Fethiye Museum were studied in 1991-92 by Melih Arslan, Richard Ashton, John Casey and A. Tolga Tek. The publication of the full catalogue is in preparation, but a number of separate studies pertaining to hoards within the collections have already been published.

struck from the same obverse and reverse dies. This group, despite the worn appearance of the coins, would seem to come later in the series when the size of the tortoise on the incuse reverse had become smaller and was placed more centrally.

It is unfortunate that we know nothing of the nature of the deposition or discovery of the hoard to aid us with its dating. However, the Elmalı Hoard, which is dated to c. 465-460 BC, contains a large number of Lycian staters with a triskeles on the reverse, a type which is placed after the second series. This evidence would suggest that the second series must date to the first quarter of the fifth century BC and that it does not continue, as proposed by von Aulock, until c. 440 BC.

CATALOGUE

DYNASTS OF LYCIA, uncertain dynast, 480-460 B.C.

Obv. Snuffling boar r.

Rev. Tortoise; dotted border; square incuse

- 1 - 9.10 g.; 19 mm.; 12h. *Traité* 138; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4072.
- 2 - 9.16 g.; 19 mm.; 3h. *Traité* 138; BMC 18; SNG von Aulock 4072.
- 3 - 9.26 g.; 20 mm.; 12h. *Traité* 138; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4072; Lanz 213.
- 4 - 9.35 g.; 19 mm.; 5h. *Traité* 138; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4072 ; Lanz 213.

Obv. Snuffling boar l.

Rev. Tortoise; dotted border; square incuse

- 5 - 9.40 g.; 20 mm.; 11h. BMC 20; SNG von Aulock 4071; Pozzi 2743; Lanz 212.
- 6 - 9.27 g.; 19 mm.; 5h. BMC 18; SNG von Aulock 4072; Lanz 213.
- 7 - 9.27 g.; 20 mm.; 12h. BMC 18; SNG von Aulock 4072.
- 8 - 8.61 g.; 20 mm.; 1h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.
- 9 - 7.72 g.; 19 mm.; 4h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.
- 10 - 8.01 g.; 19 mm.; 5h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.
- 11 - 8.36 g.; 20 mm.; 1h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.
- 12 - 8.36 g.; 20 mm.; 3h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.
- 13 - 7.65 g.; 19 mm.; 2h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.
- 14 - 8.30 g.; 20 mm.; 2h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.

- 15 - 7.47 g.; 19 mm.; 3h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.
- 16 - 7.16 g.; 19 mm.; 1h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.
- 17 - 8.70 g.; 19 mm.; 2h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.
- 18 - 9.15 g.; 20 mm.; 2h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.
- 19 - 6.71 g.; 19 mm.; 5h. *Traité* 137; BMC 17; SNG von Aulock 4073; Lanz 214.



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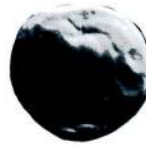


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