

PROCEEDINGS OF THE XIVth
INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC
CONGRESS

GLASGOW 2009

Edited by
Nicholas Holmes



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II

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE GEORGE AND NEFELI GIABRA PIERIDES COLLECTION, DONATED BY CLIO AND SOLON TRIANTAFYLLIDES: COINS AND ARTEFACTS

ELENI ZAPITI AND EVANGELINE MARKOU

The Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation (BOCCF)

The BOCCF was established in 1984 by the Bank of Cyprus. Today it maintains six collections (the Numismatic Collection, the Map Collection, the Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection, the Engravings, Old Photographs and Watercolours Collection, the Collection of Contemporary Cypriot Art and the Collection of Cyprus Antiquities) and two Museums: The-Museum of the History of Cypriot Coinage and the Museum of the George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Collection.¹

The Collection

The George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Collection covers a wide range of the history and archaeology of Cyprus, from the Early Bronze Age (2500 BC) to the end of the mediaeval period (sixteenth century). Numbering more than 600 items, the collection is one of the most important private collections in Cyprus, possessing superb examples of Mycenaean pottery in the Pictorial Style (fourteenth - thirteenth century BC), notable examples of the Red Polished Style of the Early and Middle Bronze Age (2500-1600 BC), and important objects dated to the Geometric (1050-750 BC) and Archaic periods (750-480 BC). The richest part of the Collection consists of sculptures in limestone, dating from the early sixth century BC to the Hellenistic period. The seals and the jewellery of all periods are examples of remarkable small-scale art and throw light on various aspects of the social history of Cyprus. The coins of the Classical period (480-310 BC) are an important part of the collection, as they were issued by the kings of Cyprus in various kingdoms and metals. They bear inscriptions and an interesting iconography, parallels of which can be found on other items from the collection.

The Cypriot Syllabic Script

The Cypriot Syllabic script is the local script composed of signs, each one corresponding to a Greek syllable. The local script, attested in Cyprus since the eleventh century BC, can be observed on pottery (**Pl. I, 1, 2**), inscriptions (**Pl. I, 3**), seals (**Pl. I, 4-6**) and coins (**Pl. I, 11, Pl. II, 17**). The coin legends usually refer to the royal title 'of the King', as well as the first syllables of the king's name. As one can observe on the silver third of a *siglos*, the local weight standard for the silver coins, of Evagoras I (**Pl. I, 11**), on the obverse is inscribed the king's name *e-u-wa-ko-ro* (of Evagoras) and on the reverse the royal title *pa-si-le-wo-se* (king). Another silver one-sixth of a *siglos* of a king Ari- (**Pl. II, 17**) bears on the reverse, in Cypriot syllabic script, the legend *pa-si* (of the king) *a-ri* (Ari-). The name of this king is abbreviated on these coins and his kingdom remains uncertain.

¹ The Cultural Foundation's publication programme includes numerous publications (<http://www.cyprusculture.com>). The online multimedia application with educational focus *From the electrum to the euro* (<http://>

www.boccf.org), presents the history of the coinage up to the introduction of the Euro.

Greek and Phoenician coin legends

After the introduction of coinage in Cyprus, in the late sixth - early fifth century BC, the Phoenician script was used in parallel with the local Cypriot Syllabic script. On the coin issues of the Kings of Kition the royal title and the king's name appear in Phoenician on the reverse of the coin issues, such as the gold half stater of Pumaayaton (**Pl. II, 15**). From the fourth century BC onwards the Greek alphabet was also adopted in Cyprus; it coexists on coin legends with the local Syllabary, or replaces it completely, as we observe on the silver *didrachm* of the king of Salamis Evagoras II (**Pl. II, 14**), where the royal title BA (of the king) appears on the obverse in Greek letters behind the head of the turreted Aphrodite, and his name EYA (Evagoras) on the reverse, behind the bust of Athena. On the bronze issue of Praxippos, the king of Lapethos (**Pl. II, 18**), we find the Greek legend ΠΡ, the first two letters of his name, on the obverse and that of his royal title, BA, on the reverse.

Iconography

The fifth century BC Cypriot coin issues are characterised by the depiction of animals that can be observed on the coinages of various kings, such as the silver fraction of an unknown king of Amathous that depicts a lying lion on the obverse and a forepart of a lion in an incuse square on the reverse (**Pl. II, 16**). The representation of the lion in Cypriot art is common, as is testified by the limestone lion head (**Pl. I, 9**), but also by the lion's representations on seals (**Pl. I, 5, 6**). Herakles, assimilated with the Phoenician Milquart in Kition, is also attested in Cyprus: the gold issues of the king of Kition Pumaayaton depict Herakles-Milquart walking right, holding the club above his head and the bow in the extended left hand (**Pl. II, 15**); on the silver coins of king Ari- of the uncertain kingdom, Herakles is fighting the Nemean lion (**Pl. II, 17**); on the obverse of the silver fractions of Evagoras I, king of Salamis, he is seated on a rock (**Pl. I, 11**), while the gold fractions of the same king bear only his head, wearing the lion skin (**Pl. I, 12**). Parallels of the Greek hero's head wearing the lion skin can be seen in two limestone heads dated to the early fifth century (**Pl. I, 8**). To the same period is dated a limestone statuette of Herakles (**Pl. I, 7**); he is wearing the lion skin, he is holding the club above his head with the right hand, as on the coins of king Pumaayaton (**Pl. II, 15**), and he holds a small lion next to his body. In the fourth century the presence of Greek deities is attested on the local coin iconography. The head of Apollo (**Pl. II, 18**), Athena (**Pl. II, 14**), Artemis, Zeus and especially Aphrodite can be seen in the local numismatic production. The coins of Evagoras II of Salamis depict Aphrodite wearing a turreted crown (**Pl. II, 14**), while the gold issues of king Nikokles depict, on the obverse, the goddess (**Pl. II, 13**), wearing a local crown decorated with standing figures. A parallel for this local crown can be seen on the colossal limestone female head (**Pl. I, 10**), dated to the early fifth century BC.

Catalogue of objects from the George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Collection (Plates I-II)

1. Jug (750-600 BC), Bichrome IV ware
BCCF number: GP 1999-137
h.: 36.5 cm
Karageorghis 2002,² p. 118
2. Shallow conical bowl (400-310 BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-139
Plain White VII ware; h.: 4.2 cm, d.: 17.5 cm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 120
3. Limestone block from Marion (c. 6th - 4th century BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-349
H.: 23 cm, w.: 21 cm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 260
4. Scarab (c. 475-325 BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-407
Agate; l.: 2 cm, w.: 1.5 cm, h.: 1 cm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 308
5. Scarab (c. 475-325 BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-406
Green jasper; l.: 1.4 cm, w.: 1 cm, h.: 0.8 cm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 308
6. Scarab (c. 475-325 BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-405
Black stone; l.: 1.5 cm, w.: 1.1 cm, h.: 0.7 cm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 307
7. Limestone statuette of Herakles (early 5th century BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-188
H.: 31 cm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 149
8. Limestone heads of Herakles (early 5th century BC)
BCCF numbers: GP 1999-189, GP 1999-190
H.: 13 cm (left), h.: 10.5 cm (right)
Karageorghis 2002, p. 150
9. Limestone head of a lion (mid 6th century BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-217
H.: 22 cm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 169

² Karageorghis V. (2002), *Ancient Art from Cyprus in the Collection of* Nicosia.
George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides, Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation,

10. Limestone female head (early 5th century BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-191
H.: 31 cm
Karageorghis 2002, pp. 151-53
11. Salamis. Evagoras I (411-374/3 BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-419
Silver third of *siglos*, 2.92 g., 14,5 mm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 317
12. Salamis. Evagoras I (411-374/3 BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-423
Gold tenth of *stater*, 0.62 g., 9 mm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 318
13. Salamis. Nikokles (373-361 BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-425
Gold twelfth of *stater*, 0.69 g., 8.5 mm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 319
14. Salamis. Evagoras II (361-351 BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-427
Silver *didrachm*, 7.08 g., 19 mm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 320
15. Kition. Pumaayaton (361-312 BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-436
Gold *hemistater*, 4.14 g., 14 mm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 325
16. Amathous. Unknown king (5th century BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-437
Silver third of *siglos*, 1.57 g., 16 mm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 325
17. Uncertain mint. Ari- (beginning 4th century BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-439
Silver sixth of *siglos*, 1.67 g., 12.5 mm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 326
18. Lapethos. Praxippos (330-312 BC)
BCCF number: GP 1999-440
Bronze, 2.10 g., 14 mm
Karageorghis 2002, p. 327

PLATE I (see catalogue for actual size of each item)



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

PLATE II



13



14



15



16



17



18