

VASSOS KARAGEORGHIS

CYPRIOTE AND OTHER ANTIQUITIES IN THE COLLECTION OF ANGELOS AND EMILY TSIRIDES

COLLECTIONS

EN TIPIS  PUBLICATIONS

CYPRIOTE AND OTHER ANTIQUITIES IN THE COLLECTION OF ANGELOS AND EMILY TSIRIDES

by VASSOS KARAGEORGHIS

in collaboration with

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was probably broken from the background of a grave relief. On top of the head an irregular mass, probably a wreath and the upper part of the coiffure is preserved. The nose is broken, while the surface of the forehead, cheeks and chin, as well as the lips and the pupils is worn and rough.

Depicted is the head of a young man turned slightly to his left (only the right ear is visible, while the left one appears to have been blended in the background of the grave relief). The forehead is framed by pearl-shaped curls set horizontally in two rows above the forehead and worked out in three rows to the sides above the temples partly covering the ears (the one is visible). The facial proportions are natural, while the naturalistic rendering of the eyelids and the eyes reveal the great talent of the sculptor. The pupils are carved out and their surface is slightly worn. Despite the rough surface of the lips one can recognize their fleshy shape and their passive expression, which is mainly achieved by the two piercings/openings between the upper and the lower lip.

Carefully studying the condition of certain specific features one could hypothesize that the head had

never been completed; meaning work was still in progress when, in later times, it had been removed from the background of the relief. The irregular mass on the top of the head was most probably intended for the shaping and completion of the coiffure, as well as for an elaborate wreath, which would obviously embellish the head (Connelly 1988, pl. 4, figs 13, 14). At the same time, the unusual light, linear incisions on the pearl shaped curls of the coiffure, the irregular and non-modulated lips, as well as the apparently worn surface of the face (from the eyebrows to the cheeks up to the chin) with circular movements are peculiar, and indicate the incomplete state of the portrait.

Because of the life size of the head, it can be reasoned that it constituted part of a main figure in high relief on a large grave stele. This kind of grave relief appear in Cyprus for the first time during the Hellenistic period and evolved in form and dimensions during the Roman period, until the beginning of the 2nd century A.D. (Cf. Pogiati 2003, nos 31,32,39-44,104). Comparative portraits from grave reliefs are unknown, however the naturalistic rendering of the eyes and the fleshy lips place the head chronologically in the early Hellenistic period (Cf. Hermay 1989, 161, nos 320, 322).

H. Coins

E.M.

With emphasis on Cyprus, where various mints of the Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic period are present, the Tsirides collection contains a fair number of coins in gold, silver and bronze. The chronological presentation of this important coin collection has been decided upon here, in order to indicate not only the variety of types and issuing authorities but also the time range of the coins, dating from the early 5th century B.C. (no. 240) to the 11th century A.D. (no. 257). The selected coin images are presented at scale 2:1.

The numismatic production of the autonomous Cypriote city-kingdoms (5th-4th centuries B.C.) is represented by coins in silver, issued by the kings of Paphos (no. 240), Kition (nos 242-244), Salamis (no. 246) and Amathus (nos 241 and 247) and by a gold tenth of a stater issued by the king of Salamis, Evagoras I (no. 245).

The coinage of Alexander the Great is present in the collection with two silver coins, one of which was

issued in the mint of Kition (no. 249). The era of the wars of Alexander's successors is also present in the Tsirides collection with the bronze local issues of Salamis (nos 250-252), a bronze coin of Antigonos I and Demetrius Poliorcetes (no. 253) and a silver tetradrachm of Ptolemy VIII Evergetes II (no. 254). Finally, the Byzantine period is represented by three gold coins : two gold solidi, issued by the emperors Phocas (no. 255) and Constantine IV (no. 256), and one nomisma histamenon, issued by the emperor Michael VII Ducas in the mint of Constantinople (no. 257).



240



242



243



244



245



247



248



249



(Scale 2/1)



254



255



256



257

(Scale 2/1)

240. Pny[tos] (?), early 5th century

Paphos

Obv. Bull standing left on dotted exergual line;
above Cypriot syllabic signs: pu nu

Rev. Head of eagle left in dotted incused square

Denomination: siglos

Metal: silver

Weight: 9.5 gr.

Die axis: 6:00 hours

Diameter: 21 mm.

Bibl.: Bmc Cyprus, 36-37, nos 4-13; Destrooper-Georgiades 1984, 151, pl. XXIX, 68-69; Iacovou and Pitsillides 1994, 23, no. 1; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 67, no. 1.

**241. Unknown king or Wroïkos
(ca. 460-450 B.C.)**

Amathus

Obv. Lion lying right

Rev. Forepart of lion lying right

Denomination: 1/96 of stater

Metal: silver

Weight: 0.10 gr

Die axis: 3:00 hours

Diameter: 6 mm.

Bibl.: Amandry 1984, 69, no. 125, g; Iacovou and Pitsillides 1994, 32, no. 9; Amandry 1997, 43, pl. XI, nos 17-18; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 78, no. 11.

**242. Ozibaal (ca. 449-425/420 B.C.)
or Baalmilk II (ca. 425/420-400 B.C.)**

Kition

Obv. Herakles advancing right, the lion skin hanging on his back, holding bow in left hand and club raised above his head in right hand

Rev. Lion devouring stag right; above Phoenician legend off flan; the whole in dotted square

Denomination: Cypriote siglos

Metal: silver

Weight: 10.9 gr

Die axis: 12:00 hours

Diameter: 20 mm.

Bibl.: Bmc Cyprus, 10-14, nos 10-23 and 29-35; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 56-59.

**243. Ozibaal, Baalmilk II or Baalrom
(ca. 449-400 B.C.)**

Kition

Obv. Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin; the whole in dotted circle

Rev. Lion devouring stag right; the whole in dotted square

Denomination: 1/12 siglos

Metal: silver

Weight: 0.60 gr

Die axis: 7:00 hours

Diameter: 9 mm

Bibl.: Bmc Cyprus, 17, nos 50-51; Iacovou and Pitsillides 1994, 27, no. 11; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 59, no. 19.

**244. Ozibaal, Baalmilk II or Baalrom
(ca. 449-400 B.C.)**

Kition

Obv. Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin; the whole in dotted circle

Rev. Lion devouring stag right; the whole in dotted square

Denomination: 1/12 siglos

Metal: silver

Weight: 0.50 gr

Die axis: 4:00 hours

Diameter: 8 mm.

Bibl.: Bmc Cyprus, 17, nos 50-51; Iacovou and Pitsillides 1994, 27, no. 11; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 59, no. 19.

245. Evagoras I (411-374/373 B.C.)

Salamis

Obv. Head of bearded Herakles wearing lion skin, right

Rev. Forepart of goat right; the whole in linear circle

Denomination: 1/10th of a gold stater

Metal: gold

Weight: 0.70 gr

Die axis: 1:00 hour

Diameter: 8.5 mm.

Bibl.: Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 49, no. 15; Markou 2011, 114, no. 200 (this coin).

246. Evagoras I (411-374/373 B.C.)

Salamis

Obv. Male head right

Rev. Smooth

Denomination: 1/24 of a siglos

Metal: silver

Weight: 0.20 gr

Die axis: -

Diameter: 7 mm.

Bibl.: *Bmc Cyprus*, 55, no. 45, pl. XI.8; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 48, no. 9 (1/12 siglos).

247. Rhoikos (ca. 350 B.C.)

Amathus

Obv. Head of lion right with open jaws; the whole in dotted circle

Rev. Forepart of lion with head facing right

Denomination: obol

Metal: silver

Weight: 0.40 gr

Die axis: 6:00 hours

Diameter: 9 mm.

Bibl.: Amandry 1984, 75, no. 133, B, a; Iacovou and Pitsillides 1994, 32, no. 15; Amandry 1997, 40, pl. XII, nos 36-43; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 80, no. 20.

248. Alexander III (336-323 B.C.)

Miletus (posthumous issue), after 323

Obv. Head of beardless Herakles wearing lion skin right

Rev. Zeus enthroned left, holding eagle on right hand, resting left hand on sceptre. Below the throne, *double axe*. In the right field Greek legend:

ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ

Denomination: drachm

Metal: silver plated

Weight: 3.9 gr

Die axis: 12:00 hours

Diameter: 18 mm.

Bibl.: Price 1991, 286, no. 2148, pl. CXXXII.

249. Alexander III (336-323 B.C.)

Kition (posthumous issue), after 323

Obv. Head of beardless Herakles wearing lion skin right; the whole in dotted border

Rev. Zeus enthroned left, holding eagle on right hand, resting left hand on sceptre. In the left field, monogram KIT. In the right field Greek legend: ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, below, Greek legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

Denomination: tetradrachm

Metal: silver

Weight: 17 gr

Die axis: 1:00 hour

Diameter: 25 mm.

Bibl.: Price 1991, 386, no. 3110 pl. LXXXVIII; Iacovou and Pitsillides 1994, 43, nos 6-7; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 111, nos 17-18.

250. Salamis (322-312 B.C.)

Salamis

Obv. Head of Athena right, wearing Attic helmet

Rev. Prow of ship right

Metal: bronze

Weight: 3.60 gr

Die axis: 6:00 hours

Diameter: 15 mm.

Bibl.: BMC Cyprus, 61, no. 74, pl. XII, 9; Helly 1970, 243, nos 24-45; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 51, no. 27.

251. Salamis (322-312 B.C.)

Salamis

Obv. Head of Athena right, wearing Attic helmet

Rev. Prow of ship right. Legend ΣΑΑ

Denomination: bronze

Metal: bronze

Weight: 4.30 gr

Die axis: 12:00 hours

Diameter: 14 mm.

Bibl.: BMC Cyprus, 61, no. 74, pl. XII, 9; Helly 1970, 243, nos 24-45; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 51, no. 27.

252. Salamis (322-312 BC)

Salamis

Obv. Head of Athena right, wearing Attic helmet

Rev. Prow of ship right. Legend ΣΑΑ

Denomination: bronze

Metal: bronze

Weight: 4.70 gr

Die axis: 12:00 hours

Diameter: 16.5 mm.

Bibl.: BMC Cyprus, 61, no. 74, pl. XII.9; Helly 1970, 243, nos 24-45; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 51, no. 27.

253. Antigonus I and Demetrius Poliorcetes (316-301 B.C.)

Salamis, ca. 306-301

Obv. Macedonian shield with gorgon's head (gorgoneion) on boss

Rev. Macedonian helmet ; around Greek letters and symbols: B top left, A top right, caduceus bottom

left and monogram NK on bottom right

Denomination: bronze

Metal: bronze

Weight: 4.60 gr

Die axis: 12:00 hours

Diameter: 16 mm.

Bibl.: Newell 1927, 18; Cox 1959, 4, no. 14; Helly 1970, 250; Price 1991, 394, no. 3162; Zapiti and Michaelidou 2008, 116, no. 5.

254. Ptolemy VIII Evergetes II (146/145-117/116 B.C.)

Year 119/118 B.C., Kition

Obv. Diademed head of Ptolemy I right with aegis; the whole in dotted circle

Rev. Eagle with closed wings standing left on thunderbolt; in left field, regnal date: LNB (year 52); in right field mint name: K I; around, ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ on left, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ on right

Denomination: tetradrachm

Metal: silver

Weight: 13 gr

Die axis: 12:00 hours

Diameter: 22 mm.

Bibl.: Svoronos 1904, 227, no. 1615, pl. LVI, 6; Nicolaou and Mørkholm 1976, 57, no. 288, pl. XII.

255. Phocas (602-610 A.D.)

Mint of Constantinople, officina Z

Obv. Facing bust of emperor wearing cuirass, paludamentum and crown with cross on circlet, without pendilia. In right hand, globus cruciger. Around, legend: ONFOCAS PERPAVC

Rev. Facing angel. In right hand, shaft with christogram on top, in left hand, globus cruciger. In exergue CONOB. Around, legend: VICTORI AAVCCZ

Denomination: solidus

Metal: gold

Weight: 4.50 gr

Die axis: 6:00 hours

Diameter: 21 mm.

Bibl.: MIB II, pl. 29, 7.

256. Constantine IV (668-685 A.D.)

Constantinople

Obv. $\frac{3}{4}$ facing bust of emperor, wearing cuirass and helmet with plume and diadem. In right hand, spear, on left shoulder, shield with horseman device. Legend: ONC T NVSP

Rev. Cross on three steps. To left and right Heraclius and Tiberius wearing chlamys and and crown with cross and holding globus cruciger in right hand. Beneath, CONOB Legend: VICTOA AVG.

Denomination: solidus

Metal: gold

Weight: 4.40 gr

Die axis: 6:00 hours

Diameter: 19 mm.

Bibl.: MIB III, pl. 32, 8b.

257. Michael VII Ducas (1071-1078 A.D.)

Constantinople

Obv. Facing nimbed bust of Christ wearing tunic and *himation*. Right hand blessing, in left hand, ornamented book of Gospels. In field, IC (left) and XC (right). Double border of dots

Rev. Facing bust of emperor wearing crown with cross, pendilia and loros of modified type with collar-piece. In right hand, labarum-headed shaft, in left hand, globus cruciger. Double border of dots. Around, legend: +MIX AHA RACIA[OΔ]

Denomination: nomisma histamenon

Metal: gold

Weight: 4.30 gr

Die axis: 6:00 hours

Diameter: 32 mm.

Bibl.: DOC 3, 2e (806, pl. LXVI.2e).

I. Miscellanea, Cypro-Classical, Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian

V.K. (258-298) and D.P.-B. (299)

258. Amphoriskos of gypsum

Height (including lid): 23 cm.

Hellenistic

Surface very worn. Ovoid body, narrow cylindrical neck, out-curved rim, two composite opposed handles from neck to shoulder, high splaying foot, flat base; the lid is in the shape of a miniature vase, resting on a cylindrical stem which is inserted into the neck of the *amphoriskos*.

The shape of the handles has been dictated by the material: instead of a slender loop handle which would have been too fragile, there is a multiple handle, with small superimposed loops, now broken, which also

adds to the decorative qualities of the vase.

Cf. *SCEIV*:3, especially with regard to the handle; cf. also Chavane 1990, 81-82, nos 678 and 679 (probably the vase with its lid) pl. XXIV.

259. Alabastron of gypsum

Height: 22.1 cm.

Cypro-Classical

Oblong ovoid body, short cylindrical neck, broad flat rim, rounded base, two opposed vertical lugs on shoulder.

Such vases are quite common in Cyprus, particularly