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# SCHWEIZER MÜNZBLÄTTER

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## SOME FRACTIONS OF KROTON

Peter Bicknell

### *A. Wheel Reverses*

The following pieces have received little attention:

- a) Obv. Tripod with three circular handles; border of dots; no trace of legend.  
Rev. Wheel with four spokes; traces of linear border.  
Berlin, ex-Peytrignet, 0,33 g (fig. 1).
- b) Obv. Similar to that of a) and perhaps from the same die.  
Rev. Similar to that of a) and perhaps from the same die.  
Berlin, ex-Imhoof Blumer, 0,36 g.

c) Obv. Similar to those of a) and b).

Rev. Similar to those of a) and b).

Vatican, 0,35 g.

d) Obv. Similar to those of a), b) and c), but traces of legend (?) to left of tripod.

Rev. Similar to those of a), b) and c).

Berlin, ex-Peytrignet, 0,20 g (fig. 2).



The reverses of these tiny coins closely resemble those of the Dolphin rider wheel nomoi of Taras. Since the reverses of a number of other Krotoniate fractions<sup>1</sup> are clearly copies of types of other states, it may be concluded that a likeness is intentional and that the wheel fractions of Kroton and the wheel nomoi of Taras are contemporary.

In a recent paper<sup>2</sup>, H. Cahn assigned the following dates to the earlier double relief issues of Taras.

	Obv.	Rev.	Dates
A	Phalanthos	Hippocamp (wide flans)	510—500
B	Phalanthos	Hippocamp (thick flans)	500—490
C	Phalanthos	<i>Wheel</i>	490—480
D <sup>3</sup>	Phalanthos	Satyra	480—470
E	Phalanthos	Hippocamp	470—460

The date assigned to the wheel nomoi is likely to be too early. The transition to thick flans similar to those on which this group, and the preceding series (B) of Phalanthos-Hippocamp nomoi were struck took place in the Achaian apoikiai of Southern Italy about 480<sup>4</sup>. It is reasonable to suppose that Taras altered her fabric at the same time. If so, then the thick flan Phalanthos-Hippocamp nomoi

<sup>1</sup> Triobols with the pegasus of Corinth together with accompanying; diobols with the hare of Rhegion-Messana, etc. On these and others, see especially C. M. Kraay, *A propos des monnaies divisionnaires de Crotona*, SM 1958, No 32, 99—107.

<sup>2</sup> *Early Tarentine Chronology*, in *Essays on Greek Coinage presented to Stanley Robinson*, Oxford 1968, 59—74.

<sup>3</sup> The wheel and «Satyra» reverses are die-linked; Cahn, *op. cit.* 69.

<sup>4</sup> See Kraay, *Caulonia and South Italian Problems*, NC 1960, 59 ff.

will have commenced circa 480. Provided that Cahn correctly assigns a decade to each of the groups B, C, D and E, the following revised chronology ensues:

- B — 480—470
- C — 470—460
- D — 460—450
- E — 450—440

This result checks out quite well. The second Phalanthos-Hippocamp series (E) gives way to the first so-called Oikist issues. A fairly early Oikist is overstruck on a coin of Korinth whose reverse is Ravel T 237, plausibly dated near 450<sup>5</sup>. The overstriking Oikist dies ought not to be earlier than the 440s.

If the Krotoniate wheel fractions are indeed contemporary with the Tarentine wheel nomoi, they too are to be assigned to the decade circa 470—460. The accompanying staters will be those of the dumpy incuse fabric with three circular handles above the tripod. This is the first and largest group of dumpy incuse staters of Kroton. It commences after the production of medium incuse pieces with a similar tripod and gives way to a second dumpy incuse group in which the tripod has only one, central, circular handle.

Details of 188 well preserved Krotoniate staters of the first dumpy incuse group are known to me. Of these only 33 exceed 8,00 g. The norm is close to 7,90 g. This means that the theoretical norm for a Krotoniate drachm (one third of the stater) for the same period will be about 2,60 g. In practice it turns out to be about 2,50 g<sup>6</sup>. On this basis the theoretical weight for an obol should be something like 0,42 g and for a hemi-obol 0,21 g. The lighter of the wheel fractions is clearly a hemi-obol and the (comparatively) larger pieces must have circulated as obols. None of the wheel obols looks excessively worn and it may well be that they were deliberately struck at a somewhat «reduced» weight of about 0,35 g. The wheel hemi-obol weighs more than half of its counterparts. Since it must have been hard to control the weights of such miniscule pieces, this may be accidental. The intended weight of the hemi-obols could have been half of that of the light obol.

The explanation of the fractions with Tarentine reverse may be analogous to that put forward by Kraay<sup>7</sup> to account for other Krotoniate fractions whose reverse type is a copy of that of other states. The normal weight of the Krotoniate staters contemporary with the wheel fractions is, as already pointed out, circa 7,90 g. The wheel nomoi of Taras are somewhat heavier. Seldom do they drop below 8,00 g and their norm appears to fall close to 8,10 g<sup>8</sup>. A Tarentine at Kroton<sup>9</sup> would scarcely be satisfied to exchange a wheel nomos for a contemporary local stater of inferior weight. The wheel obols and hemi-obols were struck to

<sup>5</sup> See Kraay, Caulonia, 61.

<sup>6</sup> I have details of 31 drachms contemporary with the dumpy incuse staters with three handled tripod and with the medium incuse staters which dovetail into them. 14 exceed 2,50 g, 8 of these narrowly, a further 7 top 2,40 g, and a further 5 exceed 2,30 g.

<sup>7</sup> Reference at note 1 above.

<sup>8</sup> Pieces that fall considerably short of 8,00 g are usually Messapian imitations, for example, Vlasto 79, 95 and 96. The lowest weight among the official wheels of which I have details is 7,85 g.

<sup>9</sup> A visitor for the games of Hera Lakinia, for example; see Pseudo-Aristotle *Mir. Ausc.* 838 a, 15 ff.

remove this difficulty. For two wheel nomoi together weighing something close to 16,20 g the visitor from Taras received two Krotoniate nomoi together weighing circa 15,80 g plus a wheel obol of circa 0,35 g. A wheel nomos of circa 8,10 g exchanged for a Krotoniate stater of circa 7,90 g plus a wheel hemi-obol of circa 0,18 g. On the Krotoniate side there was still a profit, but a small and unexceptionable one.

### *B. Some more crabs*

In his article on fractions of Kroton with reverse types of other states Kraay draws attention to a triobol and an obol whose reverse bears an Akragantine-looking crab.

The first piece is Naples, Santangelo 6390, a triobol weighing 1,27 g. Kraay rightly observes that it is the earliest of the fractions with an alien type, since there are snakes between the legs of the tripod, a feature confined to the archaic spread incuse staters and a few early medium incuse issues. He could have added that the border of the reverse consists of incuse dashes. This feature shows up well on a piece in Berlin (ex-Löbbecke) weighing 1,25 g and apparently struck from the same dies (fig. 3).

The other crab reverse fraction mentioned by Kraay is de Luynes 712, an obol weighing 0,45 g.

I have come across three more triobols and one more obol with crab reverses.

- a) Obv. Tripod with three exaggerated rings (to indicate the denomination?) above the bowl; double volutes between legs of tripod; to the l. OOO (?); to the r. QPO retrograde.  
Rev. Crab within border of incuse oblongs.  
Berlin 9303, 1,225 g (fig. 4).
- b) Obv. Tripod with three exaggerated rings above the bowl; to the l. QPO; dotted border.  
Rev. Crab within dotted border; between the legs of the crab, QPO.  
Amsterdam, Royal Academy, 1,23 g.
- c) Obv. Tripod with three handles above bowl; to l. QP facing outwards; to right three heavy dots (marks of value?); dotted border.  
Rev. Crab within dotted border.  
Berlin, ex-Imhoof Blumer, 1,08 g (sic) (fig. 5).
- d) Obv. Tripod with three rings above bowl within dotted border.  
Rev. Crab.  
Berlin, ex-Peytrignet, 0,35 g (fig. 6).

Like the crab triobol published by Kraay, a) is very early. The type of border on the reverse and the volutes between the tripod legs place it with certain staters of the spread incuse phase of Kroton's coinage. b), whose obverse is similar in style to the obverses of Krotoniate pegasi, is later and belongs with the obol de Luynes 712 which also has a legend between the legs of the crab. The weight of c) is extremely light. The grotesque obol, d), is probably the latest of all <sup>10</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> I am indebted to Dr. C. M. Kraay for reading an earlier draft of these notes and for drawing attention to obscurities and oversights therein; for such as remain I alone am responsible.

### Zusammenfassung

Der Autor publiziert zum erstenmal einige Obolen und Hemiobolen von Kroton mit Rückseiten-Typen von Tarent und Agrigent. Er beweist, daß diese Münzen – wie andere Kleinmünzen von Kroton mit fremden Rückseiten-Typen – ausgegeben wurden, um den Wechsel höherer Werte der einheimischen Prägung gegen größere Münzen anderer Münzstätten zu erleichtern. Im Zuge der Datierung dieser Kleinmünzen von Kroton macht der Autor den Vorschlag, die Chronologie der frühen Gepräge von Tarent zu überprüfen.

## EIN FUND VON TETRADRACHMEN VOM ALEXANDERTYP AUS LYKAONIEN

Hasso Pfeiler







Der vorliegende Fund besteht aus 49 Tetradrachmen. Unglücklicherweise ist über die Fundumstände wenig bekannt. Der Händler, in dessen Besitz ich Ende 1969 die Münzen sah, wußte nur, daß sie aus der Gegend zwischen Konya und Mut stammten. Jedenfalls hatte er alle angebotenen Stücke gekauft, und es ist wahrscheinlich, daß es sich um einen geschlossenen Fund handelt. Völlig ausgeschlossen ist die zunächst naheliegende Vermutung, daß die Münzen aus derselben Quelle kommen wie der kürzlich von mir publizierte Fund aus Aksaray<sup>1</sup>. Die Stücke in der folgenden Liste, deren Gewicht nicht angegeben ist, sind auch nicht abgebildet. Sie wurden mir erst gezeigt, als ich die anderen schon bearbeitet hatte. Aus zeitlichen Gründen war es mir nicht mehr möglich, sie zu wiegen und zu fotografieren.

Der Fund setzt sich folgendermaßen zusammen:

Vs.: Kopf des Herakles-Alexander im Löwenhelm nach rechts

Rs.: Zeus Lykaios nach links auf Thron sitzend<sup>2</sup>.

Verschiedene Beizeichen, Monogramme oder Buchstaben links im Feld oder unter dem Thron.

Im Feld	Unter dem Thron	Gewicht	Datum
AMPHIPOLIS			
1 Pferd kopf l.	—	15,66 g M. 528	vor 318 A
2 	—	16,73 g D. 1512	vor 318 BA
PELLA			
3 	ⵄ	16,81 g M. —	vor 318 A
SIKYON			
4 		16,56 g M. 409	303—301 BA
MILETOS			
5 		16,11 g M. 1136	300 A

<sup>1</sup> H. Pfeiler, Ein Fund von Tetradrachmen vom Alexandertyp aus Aksaray, SM 19, 1969, H. 75, 49 ff.

<sup>2</sup> Zur Interpretation der Reversdarstellung als Zeus Lykaios, vgl. A. R. Bellinger, Essays in the Coinage of Alexander the Great, Num. Stud. 11, 1963, 21 f.