

<b>Zeitschrift:</b>	Schweizer Münzblätter = Gazette numismatique suisse = Gazzetta numismatica svizzera
<b>Herausgeber:</b>	Schweizerische Numismatische Gesellschaft
<b>Band:</b>	38-42 (1988-1992)
<b>Heft:</b>	157
<b>Artikel:</b>	New silver coins of Demetrius III and Antiochus XII at Damascus
<b>Autor:</b>	Houghton, Arthur / Spaer, Arnold
<b>DOI:</b>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-171501">https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-171501</a>

### Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 31.07.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**



Jahrgang 40

Februar 1990

Heft 157

# SCHWEIZER MÜNZBLÄTTER

*Gazette numismatique suisse      Gazzetta numismatica svizzera*

Herausgegeben von der Schweizerischen Numismatischen Gesellschaft (SNG)  
Gedruckt mit Unterstützung der Schweizerischen Akademie der Geisteswissenschaften (SAGW)

*Publiée par la Société suisse de numismatique (SSN)  
avec l'appui de l'Académie suisse des sciences humaines (ASSH)*

*Pubblicato dalla Società svizzera di numismatica (SSN)  
con il contributo dell'Accademia svizzera di scienze morali (ASSM)*

*Redaktion:* Dr. F. Koenig, Cabinet de Numismatique, Musée d'Art et d'Histoire,  
Case postale 516, CH-1211 Genève 3

*Administration:* Italo Vecchi, Niederdorfstrasse 43, CH-8001 Zürich, SKA Bern, Konto 100849/41

---

Erscheint vierteljährlich. Die Mitglieder der SNG erhalten gratis: Schweizer Münzblätter und Schweizerische Numismatische Rundschau. Jahresbeitrag: Fr. 80.–, lebenslange Mitgliedschaft: Fr. 1600.–.

Revue trimestrielle. Les membres de la SSN reçoivent gratuitement la Gazette numismatique suisse et la Revue suisse de numismatique. Cotisation annuelle: fr. 80.–, membre à vie: fr. 1600.–.

Rivista trimestrale. I membri della SSN ricevono gratuitamente: Gazzetta numismatica svizzera e Rivista svizzera di numismatica. Quota sociale annua: fr. 80.–, membro a vita: fr. 1600.–.

---

## Inhalt – Table des matières – Sommario

Arthur Houghton, Arnold Spaer: New Silver Coins of Demetrius III and Antiochus XII at Damascus. S. 1.  
– Simon Bendall: The first Constantinopolitan Solidus of Heraclius and Heraclius Constantine. S. 6.  
– Andreas U. Sommer: Nicephorus Bryennius, Nicephorus Basilacius oder Nicephorus III. Botaniates? S. 8. – Felix Burckhardt: Basler Pfennige des 13. Jahrhunderts mit «S – N». S. 13. – Benedikt Zäch: Bäggeli-Angster? S. 17. – Protokoll - Procès-verbal. S. 21. – Altes und Neues - Nouvelles d'hier et d'aujourd'hui. S. 25. – Berichte - Rapports. – Aufruf - Appel. S. 26. – Kongresse - Congrès. S. 27. – Nekrolog. S. 28. – Personalia. S. 29. – Ausstellungen - Expositions. S. 30. – Der Büchertisch - Lectures. S. 32.

---

## NEW SILVER COINS OF DEMETRIUS III AND ANTIOCHUS XII AT DAMASCUS

Arthur Houghton – Arnold Spaer

### DEMETRIUS III (96–78 B.C.)

New Damascene issues of Demetrius III which have come to light since the publication of E.T. Newell's study of the Seleucid coins struck at this city include the following drachms and hemidrachms<sup>1</sup>:

<sup>1</sup> E.T. Newell, Late Seleucid Mints in Ake-Ptolemais and Damascus, NNM 84 (New York 1939) hereafter LSM. Other issues of Demetrius are noted in A. Houghton, Coins of the Seleucid Empire, ACNAC 4 (New York 1983), hereafter CSE.

Obv. Diademed head of Demetrius III r.; fillet border.

Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ  
Nike walking l., holding wreath in outstretched r. hand; to l., **Α**; beneath Nike, date;  
dotted border.

*Drachms*

YEAR 217 S.E. (96/5 B.C.)

1. al p1 3.83 Private U.S. collection.  
2. al p2 3.78 A. Spaer coll., Jerusalem. Acquired in Jerusalem.

UNCERTAIN YEAR, PERHAPS 217 S.E.

3. al p3 3.84 Rev. date off flan. Private U.S. collection. Spink 65, 5 Oct.  
1988, 89.



1.



(1:1)



3.



Obv. As no. 1.

Rev. Inscription as no. 1; diadem knotted below, between ends of which, **Α**; dotted  
border. No date.

*Hemidrachms*

4. ai pi 1.81 A. Spaer coll., Jerusalem, Acquired in Jerusalem.  
5. ai pi 1.73 A. Spaer coll., Jerusalem, Acquired in Jerusalem.  
6. ai pi 1.41 A. Spaer coll., Jerusalem. Acquired in Jerusalem.



4. (1:1)

The drachms are attributable to Damascus for several reasons. Their reverse type is the same as that carried by certain of Demetrius' bronze issues of the city<sup>2</sup>. In addition, their monogram, **Α**, appears at Damascus in the same stylized form on coins of Antiochus VIII as well as issues of Demetrius III, but not at Demetrius' other principal mint, Antioch, which continued to use the more orthodox form, **Α**<sup>3</sup>. Finally, the fact that they are dated points

<sup>2</sup> LSM 117, 120, 124; CSE 862.

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, E.T. Newell, The Seleucid Mint of Antioch, American Journal of Numismatics 54 (New York 1917–18) no. 435 (b); CSE 390, 392, as well as generally contemporaneous issues of Antiochus X, XI and Philip I in the same publications.

unequivocally to Damascus as their issuing mint: the city's silver coinage had carried the Seleucid year since the mint opened under Antiochus VII while Antioch had issued no dated coinage since the reign of Tryphon.

The hemidrachms, too, are almost certainly Damascene in origin. Like the drachms, they carry the stylized **Δ** on their reverse. Their provenances point to a mint in the southern area of the much shrunken Seleucid empire, rather than one which might suggest their issuance at Antioch. A southern origin is also indicated by their reverse type. Although no other known Seleucid coinage carries a diadem as a type, one of the most common bronze issues of the Hasmonean king, Alexander Jannaeus, bears on its reverse the motif of a diadem surrounding encircled rays, between each of which Hebrew letters spell the name and title of the king (fig. A)<sup>4</sup>. Portraiture was forbidden by Jewish law, but the symbolism of Alexander's diadem accompanied by rays as indicating a radiate diadem would have been clear to his subjects.



Fig. A (1:1)

Alexander's issue with the diadem were not his earliest, and are dated by Meshorer to c. 100–90 B.C.<sup>5</sup> – raising the possibility that they may have borrowed their reverse type from Demetrius' hemidrachms. As is clear from the several instances where Hasmonean issues copied elements from the coins of Antiochus VII and VIII<sup>6</sup>, the Hasmoneans were not averse to adopting Seleucid types when they saw fit to do so. While relations between Demetrius III and Alexander Jannaeus were not necessarily friendly, they were close; and it is not too speculative to suggest that the coins of the former king with a reverse diadem served as the prototype for Alexander's bronze issues with a diadem surrounding the rays of a star.

#### *ANTIOCHUS XII (87–84 B.C.)*

Four tetradrachms of Antiochus XII have appeared since the publication by Newell of the three then known to him. The following silver issues are now known for this king:

Obv. Diademed head of Antiochus r.; fillet border.

Rev. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΚΑΛΛΙΝΙΚΟΥ  
Statue of Hadad, capped and bearded, standing facing on two-tiered basis, holding barley stalk in l. hand; foreparts of two bulls to each side of legs; monogram to l. or in exergue; date in exergue; laurel wreath border.

<sup>4</sup> SNG ANS Part 6, Palestine-South Arabia (New York 1981) nos. 55–76 (the coin illustrated is no. 57).

<sup>5</sup> Antiochus VII: CSE 831–4, Jerusalem issues with lily and anchor; CSE 818–8, Ascalon issues with helmet, copied by John Hyrcanus II (63–40 B.C.) – Meshorer (above n. 4) p. 150, Type R. Antiochus VIII: the flower reverse type on E. Babelon, Rois de Syrie, etc., no. 1448 and Meshorer (above n. 4) Nos. 5 and 6, again copied by Alexander Jannaeus on his first issues with anchor and flower: Meshorer An 1 and p. 118.

*Tetradrachms*

YEAR 226 S.E. (87/6 B.C.)

- |          |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                   |
|----------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A1 P1 | 15.90 | Rev. in exergue,  Paris (Seyrig coll.).                                                                                                         | [Ill. plate p. 5] |
| 2. A2 P2 | 15.44 | Rev. in exergue,  London. LSM 132 (monogram is recorded as  ). | [Ill. plate p. 5] |

YEAR 227 S.E. (86/5 B.C.)

- |          |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                   |
|----------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 3. A3 P3 | 15.70 | Rev. to 1.,  (=  ?); in exergue,  H. Imhoof-Blumer, Monnaies Grecques, p. 437, no. 121. | [Ill. plate p. 5] |
| 4. A4 P4 | 15.22 | Rev. to 1.,  ; in exergue,  Paris (Seyrig coll.).                                                                                                                        | [Ill. plate p. 5] |
| 5. A5 P5 | 15.82 | Rev. to 1.,  ; in exergue,  Private U.S. collection.                                                                                                                     | [Ill. plate p. 5] |

YEAR 228 S.E. (85/4 B.C.)

- |          |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |
|----------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 6. A6 P6 | 13.10 | Rev. to 1.,  or  above  Numismatic Fine Arts Sale 18, 31 March 1987, 401. CSE 864. | [Ill. plate p. 5] |
|----------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|

UNCERTAIN YEAR

- |          |       |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                   |
|----------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 7. A7 P7 | 15.19 | Rev. to 1.,  ; exergue monogram and date off flan. Egger sale 45, Nov. 1913, 746. Jameson 2361. LSM 134. | [Ill. plate p. 5] |
|----------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|

There is little to add to Newell's commentary on these issues in LSM, except to note that the letter , which Newell noted as preceding the date in his catalogue entry of no. 3, is in fact a monogram,  With this minor correction of the record, it is interesting to note the change of monograms and their placement on Antiochus' tetradrachms: a single monogram in the exergue in S.E. 226, is replaced by two monograms, one to 1., one in the exergue in S.E. 227; in S.E. 228 two monograms appear to the left. On the assumption that the change of conventions was systematic, the Jameson coin, no 7, is likely to have been struck in S.E. 227; this can only be made certain, however, by the appearance of another tetradrachm, reverse die-linked to this coin and dated in the same year.

ANTIOCHUS XII



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



(all 1:1)