

**Zeitschrift:** Schweizer Münzblätter = Gazette numismatique suisse = Gazzetta numismatica svizzera

**Herausgeber:** Schweizerische Numismatische Gesellschaft

**Band:** 53-55 (2003-2005)

**Heft:** 212

**Artikel:** The Seleucid mint of Simyra

**Autor:** Spaer, Arnold

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-171872>

### **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:** 27.03.2026

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

In 1971, in his note «Seleucus III at Simyra»<sup>1</sup>, H. Seyrig published two tetradrachms with a royal Seleucid portrait, both bearing the legend ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ, with ΣΙ in the inner left field and, in the exergue, the Phoenician numerals year 35, presumably of the era of Aradus (= 225/224 B.C.). They were republished by Seyrig in 1973, in his «Trésors du Levant anciens et nouveaux»<sup>2</sup>. A third specimen, formerly Houghton, is now in the author's collection (*Fig. 1*)<sup>3</sup>.

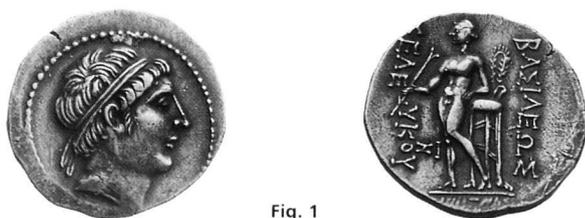


Fig. 1

The coin raises several questions. The date (226/5–224/3) is the second year of the reign of Seleucus III, but the portrait is clearly that of Seleucus II and so is the reverse type, the standing Apollo leaning on a tripod; Seleucus III used the usual Seleucid reverse type of Apollo seated left on an omphalos.

Simyra is one of the lesser Seleucid mints and was apparently situated in the Aradian Paralia. Its coins as published in *BMC Phoenicia* do not include tetradrachms, but only bronzes, one of which is dated year 35<sup>4</sup>. However, Simyra did issue tetradrachms of Alexander type, identified by the initials ΣΙ and a palm tree. The only specimen known, apparently bearing the Aradian date year 30 (230/229 B.C.), was found at Gordion (*Fig. 2*)<sup>5</sup>. The Aradian year 35 which occurs on the tetradrachm of Seleucid type, *Fig. 1*, is also found on issues of Alexander type at Aradus, Gabala, Carne and Marathus<sup>6</sup>. Price associated those with Seleucus III's preparations for a campaign in Asia Minor while, more recently, Houghton and Lorber considered them «a forced contribution to a Seleucid military enterprise»<sup>7</sup>.

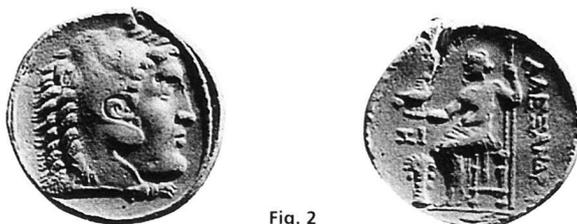


Fig. 2

- 1 *Monnaies hellénistiques* 18. RN 1971, p. 7–11.
- 2 Vol. II (Paris 1973), p. 17, hoard 24, 101–102.
- 3 CSE 687, now SNG Spaer 529.
- 4 *BMC Phoenicia* p. xiv–xv.
- 5 D.H. Cox, «Hoard V», *ANSMN* 12, 1966, p. 37, 24; Price 3527.
- 6 Price 3380, 3431–3433 and 3453.
- 7 *SC* p. 335–337, 927–930.

A step toward solving the riddle is supplied by a so-far unknown tetradrachm of Simyra which was recently obtained by the author.



Fig. 3

Obv: Diademed head of Seleucus II to right

Rev: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΣΕΛΕΥΚΟΥ Apollo standing to left, leaning against tripod;  
in inner left field, ΣΙ

16.40 g, 12.00 (*Fig. 3*)

The obverse is of the same die as that illustrated in *Fig. 1* and of the two specimens published by Seyrig; the reverse is very similar, but is, however, undated. The fact that the obverse of the new coin does not yet show the die-break above the king's head, visible on the dated pieces, proves that it was struck a year, or a few years at best, before them. This would have been at the very end of Seleucus II's reign, and would explain the choice of the reverse type. Seyrig, when first publishing the dated tetradrachms, had suggested that the issue had been prepared to finance a planned attempt by Seleucus II to reconquer part of Phoenicia that had been lost to the Ptolemies. Since this campaign did not take place, the existing dies were simply modified by the addition of a date, for use by Seleucus III, rather than going to the trouble of producing new dies with the appropriate reverse type.

Arnold Spaer  
P.O. Box 7530  
IL-91079 Jerusalem