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PEPARETHOS: FURTHER NOTES

With the publication by Martin Price and Nancy M. Waggoner of their study *Archaic Greek Coins: The «Asyut» Hoard* (London 1975), a thorough reexamination of all Greek archaic silver coinage must be undertaken¹. Consequently, my study of the late archaic silver coinage from the northern Aegean island of Peparethos now requires further comment and emendation («Peparethos: The Early Coinage Reconsidered», SNR 46 [1967], 25–33, pl. 1).

a) Attribution

Price and Waggoner question my attribution of the nine series of coins (tetradrachms, didrachm and tetrobols) to one mint. Their argument is based on the difference in style, type and fabric of Series (tetradrachms) I 1–2, II 3–5 and (didrachm) VI 9 which link with common dies, and the Series (tetradrachms) III 6–IV 7 which link with their common reverse. In addition, they also note the difference of Series V 8 (tetradrachm) – the silver plated bronze-core marked IIE – from these two groups. Price and Waggoner think that the «Macedonian character» of the reverses to Series I 1–2, II 3–5 and VI 9 («Agon» or «Boreas», head of Herakles, Corinthian helmet and rosette) suggest that the «mint city should be located in the wine-producing area of Macedonia rather than at Peparethos». Thus, this suggestion revives the former attributions of G. F. Hill (1897)² and J. N. Svoronos (1905)³. Price and Waggoner, however, overlook two basic considerations:

1. Common to each coin which I have attributed to Peparethos are (a) the similar obverse symbol of the grape-cluster and (b) the variable reverse motifs within a similar square incuse. While the form of the obverse grape-cluster does vary with each of the nine series, three variations (obverse Series I, II and VI) do differ markedly among themselves, as do the obverse types of Series III and IV which link with their common reverse. This variation of obverse types, however, need not separate these two groups nor demand the assignment of each to a different mint. A similar variation in obverse type is clearly noted for the coins of the neighboring island of Skyros during the same period (didrachms A 5, 6 and 7; all common to P. 4)⁴. The difference be-

¹ I am exceedingly grateful to Martin Price and Nancy M. Waggoner for their kindness in allowing me to read their typescript of this study prior to publication. I also wish to thank Dr. H.-D. Schultz, Berlin, and Mme H. Nicolet, Paris, for their kind assistance in obtaining the photographs herein.

² JHS 17 (1897), 79–80.

³ JIAN 8 (1905), 339–343.

⁴ Balcer, *The Archaic Coinage of Skyros and the Forgeries of Konstantinos Christodoulos*, forthcoming.

tween these three Skyrian obverse types is also accentuated by the variation in the style of the obverse motif and the fabric of the flans. The corpus of Peparethian coins, therefore, is clearly paralleled by similar variations of the Skyrian coins; all archaic silver coins which, I argue, are to be attributed to the two respective mints of the northern Sporades – Peparethos and Skyros – and which are probably contemporaneous.

2. There is no need to search for a Macedonian mint in a «wine-producing area». In the fifth century B.C., Peparethos ranked among the leading wine-producing states of the Aegean: Sophocles *Philoctetus* 547–549, Aristophanes *The Second Thesmophoriazusa* (apud Athenaeus *Deipnosophistae* 1.29 a; Edmonds FAC I, 664–665), Hermitippos *Birth of Athena?* (apud Athen. *Deip.* 1.29 c; FAC I, 308–311)⁵. The grape-cluster motif of the obverse badge is, therefore, definitely appropriate to Peparethos.

Consequently, we must return to the entire corpus of coins (SNR 46 [1967]) and consider the common obverse motif with its variations in direct relation to the silver plated bronze tetradrachm which does bear the seated figure of Peparethos' legendary founder Staphylos and its abbreviated ethnic ΠΙΕ. While the fabric of this tetradrachm differs from that of the other coins, there is no cogent reason to reject a Peparethian attribution for it; no less any sound reason for the rejection of the other similar coins presented to the mint at Peparethos⁶.

b) The Overstruck Didrachm

Of the 895 coins listed in the Asyut hoard, the predominate group originated in the Thracio-Macedonian mints: 207 pieces (Italy 5, Sicily 20, Sporades 2, Central Greece 15, Boeotia 4, Euboea 8, Athens 165, Aegina 133, Corinth 69, Islands 14, Asia 56, Karia-Dodecanese 46, Lycia 41, Cyprus 39, Persia 18, Cyrenaica 42, uncertain 8) which bears witness to the continuation of mint production in the northern Aegean during the decades 500–480 B.C., mints which heretofore had been considered inoperative. Several of these mints may have still been active down into the 460's. This startling evidence now indicates that the conflicts of the Persian Wars 499–479 B.C. had not brought a cessation to the Island and Thracio-Macedonian mints but rather a stimulation of production. Into this setting we now place the mint of Peparethos. The Peparethian types, furthermore, reflect a close relationship of Peparethos with the Thracio-Macedonian styles and types, as the coins themselves probably indicate an utilization of Thracian silver. This is also evident for Skyros. No less, the coins in the Taranto,

⁵ RE 37, vol. 19. 1, 552–553, s. v. «Peparethos», Weinbau. Cf. (Dem.) 35.35; Diod. Sic. 15.95.2; Pliny HN 4.7, 12, and 14.76; Pollux 6.17.

⁶ Plated coins from established mints in the fifth century B.C. are not uncommon (G. F. Hill, *A Handbook of Greek and Roman Coins* [London 1899], 71). Note the Athenian issues of 407 B.C. and the plated coin issued by Themistokles at Magnesia (BMC Ionia, 158). See also W. Campbell, *Greek and Roman Plated Coins*, NNM 57 (New York 1933).

indications of the solid and beaded lines of the reverse square and the top edge of the head of Pegasus.

*c) Kos Hoard IGCH no. 1173 (Noe 273 *)*

This hoard contained the Peparethian tetradrachms I 1 a (London 16.91 g), I 2 a (London 17.17 g), and II 3 a (London 16.59 g) and two other now unlocated tetradrachms, uncovered 1860–1865⁸. – B. V. Head, «Archaic Coins Probably of Cyrene», NC 1891, 1–11, noted that the other tetradrachms were (1) an archaic Athenian tetradrachm, «of the very earliest style, similar to BMC Attica pl. I. 5», 16.93 g; and (2) an archaic Mesian tetradrachm, similar to BM Guide, pl. IV. 8, 17.59 g. Otto Mørkholm (IGCH) has dated this hoard to c. 480 B.C., and this date appears reasonable in light of the above notes, yet a date within the following decade could also be considered.

d) Date

As a result of their analysis of the 870 archaic silver coins from the Asyut hoard, buried c. 475 B.C., Price and Waggoner redate the coins of Dikaia-by-Abdera with the obverse head of Herakles and reverse incuse square, Series A, to the period c. 515–490 B.C. and bring it in relation to the coinage of Abdera, Period II, which they redate to c. 500–480 B.C.⁹. As the style of the Peparethian head of Herakles is similar to that of the head of Herakles on the obverse of the coinage of Dikaia-by-Abdera, Series A (SNR 46 [1967], pl. I. 13), a similar date for the two is strongly recommendable. In addition, Price and Waggoner have redated the Taranto hoard (Thompson et al. IGCH no. 1874) c. 500–485 B.C., from which comes our tetradrachm IV 7. This evidence, therefore led Price and Waggoner to date the Peparethian tetradrachm found at Asyut (17.01 g; cf. II 3) c. 500–480 B.C. rather than to my previously suggested c. 500 B.C. I accept this revision and suggest c. 490 B.C. This date is further confirmed by the evidence of the three hoards which contain Peparethian tetradrachms: Taranto c. 500–485 B.C. (IGCH no. 1874), Kos c. 480 B.C. (IGCH no. 1173) and Asyut c. 475 B.C. (IGCH no. 1644). This result, therefore, allows us to place the products of the Peparethian mint almost contemporaneous with those of the neighboring Skyrian mint: c. 485–480 B.C.

⁸ Babelon, *Traité* 1², 1265–1270.

⁹ Revisions of J. M. F. May, *The Coinage of Dikaia-by-Abdera*, NC 1965, 13–16, and *The Coinage of Abdera* (London 1966).

PLATE I



1



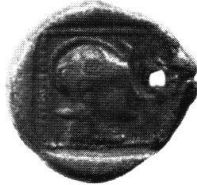
2



3



4



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