



A Constantinian Hoard from Attica

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A CONSTANTINIAN HOARD FROM ATTICA

A SMALL hoard of Constantinian bronze coins brought to my attention by Dr. C. W. Blegen is here published by his permission. It was found in Attica in 1925, and, though it exhibits nothing unexpected, it has a certain interest as furnishing some positive evidence of the trade relations of Attica in the first half of the fourth century A.D.

The hoard was buried between 343 and 345, for there are no pieces of the FEL TEMP REPARATIO type which was introduced in the latter year, while the VOT XX MULT XXX type of 343 is well represented by coins showing very little sign of wear. So far as I know, no hoards of this period from Greece have been published, but it happens that there is an exactly contemporary though much larger hoard from Egypt published by J. G. Milne ("A Hoard of Constantinian Coins from Egypt") in the *Journal International d'Archéologie Numismatique*, Vol. VI, 1914, pp. 1-27. My arrangement parallels his for purposes of comparison.

330-335 A.D.

- Rev. Type, α GLOR IAEXERC ITVS Two soldiers, with
spear and shield, standing facing each other; be-
tween them, two standards.
 β Romulus and Remus suckled by the wolf, l.¹
- Obv. Type, A1 CONSTANTI NVSMAXAVG Bust r. diademed,
wearing paludamentum and cuirass.
B1 CONSTANTINVSIVNNOBC Bust r. laureate,
wearing cuirass.
C1 FLIVLCONSTANTIVSNOBC Bust r. laureate,
wearing paludamentum and cuirass.
D1 FLIVLCONSTANSNOBC Bust r. laureate,
wearing paludamentum and cuirass.
D2 FLCONSTANSNOBCAES Bust l. laureate,
wearing paludamentum and cuirass.
E1 URBS ROMA Bust l. in helmet and cuirass.

¹ This type continued to be struck after 335, but the condition of the pieces indicates that they were among the earlier coins in the collection.

<i>Mint</i> ¹	<i>Number</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>Number</i>
Antioch		Constantinople	
B1 α	1	A1 α	2
Cyzicus		B1 α	1
C1 α	2	C1 α	1
Nicomedia		Heraclea	
D2 α	1	C1 α	1
E1 β	1	D1 α	1
		E1 β	1

335-337 A.D.

Rev. Type, γ GLOR IAEXERC ITVS Two soldiers, with spear and shield, standing facing each other; between them, one standard.

Obv. Type, A1, B1, C1.

F1 CONSTAN TINOPOLI Bust, l. in helmet and cuirass.

<i>Mint</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>Number</i>
Cyzicus		Nicomedia	
A1 γ	1	A1 γ	3
B1 γ	1	Heraclea	
C1 γ	1	A1 γ	1
		F1 γ	1

AFTER 337 A.D.

Rev. Type, γ

δ SECVRI TASREIP Figure holding long scepter leaning on column.

ϵ Emperor r. in quadriga.

ζ Veiled figure standing; in field VN MR (Veneranda Memoria)

Obv. Type, A2 DVCONSTANTI NVSPTAVGG (Divus Constantinus Pater Augustorum)

B2 CONSTANTI NVSMAXAVG Bust r. laureate, wearing paludamentum and cuirass.

B3 CONSTANTI NVSPFAVG Bust r. diademed, wearing paludamentum and cuirass.

B4 DNCONSTAN TINVSPFAVG Head r. laureate.

¹ Because of the small numbers involved it has not seemed worth while to record the various officinae of each mint represented.

- B5 Same inscription. Head r. diademed.
 C2 CONSTAN TIVSAVG Bust r. diademed, wearing paludamentum and cuirass.
 C3 Same inscription. Head r. diademed.
 C4 CONSTANTI VSPFAVG Bust r. diademed, wearing paludamentum and cuirass.
 C5 CONSTAN TIVSPFAVG Head r. diademed.
 D3 DNCONSTA NSPFAVG Head r. laureate.
 D4 Same inscription. Head r. diademed.
 D5 CONSTANS PFAVG Bust r. diademed, wearing paludamentum and cuirass.
 D6 DNFLCONSTANS AVG Bust r. diademed, wearing paludamentum and cuirass.
 D7 FLIVLCONSTANS AVG Bust r. laureate, wearing paludamentum and cuirass.

E1

<i>Mint</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>Number</i>
Alexandria		Constantinople	
A2 ζ	1	A2 ϵ	2
B2 γ	1	A2 ζ	3
Antioch		B3 γ	1
C3 γ	2	C5 γ	4
Cyzicus		D4 γ	2
A2 ϵ	3	Heraclea	
A2 ζ	3	C2 γ	2
C5 γ	1	E1 γ	1
D3 γ	1	Thessalonica	
D4 γ	1	B3 γ	2
(?) γ	1	C4 γ	1
Nicomedia		D5 γ	2
A2 ϵ	3	Rome	
A2 ζ	2	D6 δ	1
B2 γ	2	Uncertain	
B3 γ	1	A2 ϵ	1
C5 γ	5	A2 ζ	2
D3 γ	1	C3 γ	1
D4 γ	1	C5 γ	2
		D3 γ	1
		D4 γ	3
		D7 γ	1
		(?) γ	2

AFTER 340 A.D.

Rev. Type, η VOT XX MVLT XXX (Votis vicennialibus (solutis) multis tricennialibus (susceptis)) in a wreath.

θ VICTORIAEDDAVGGQNN (Victoriae dominorum Augustorumque nostrorum) Two Victories each holding a wreath, standing facing each other.

Obv. Type, C4, C5

C6 CONSTANT IVSPFAVG Bust r. diademed, wearing paludamentum and cuirass.

C7 DNCONSTAN TIVSPFAVG Head r. diademed. D3, D4, D5

D6 DNCONST ANSPFAVG Head r. diademed.

<i>Mint</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>Number</i>
Alexandria		Heraclea	
D4 η	1	C7 η	1
D6 η	1	D4 η	3
Antioch		E1 η	1
C7 η	1	Thessalonica	
Cyzicus		C4 θ	1
C7 η	4	D5 θ	5
D3 η	2	Uncertain	
D4 η	5	C6 θ	1
Nicomedia		C7 η	8
C7 η	1	D4 η	10
D4 η	7	D5 θ	1
Constantinople			
C7 η	3		

SUMMARY

Constantine I	7	Alexandria	4
Constantine I (memorial)	20	Antioch	4
Constantine II	10	Cyzicus	26
Constantius II	43	Nicomedia	28
Constans I	51	Constantinople	19
Urbs Roma	4	Heraclea	13
Constantinople	1	Thessalonica	11
Uncertain	3	Rome	1
	—	Uncertain	33
	139		—

The Summary of Milne's Hoard is as follows:¹

Alexandria	1,592	Siscia	42
Antioch	1,611	Aquileia	23
Cyzicus	845	Rome	285
Nicomedia	539	Arelate	56
Constantinople	698	Lugdunum	13
Heraclea	220	Treviri	19
Thessalonica	196	Tarraco	3
			6,141

In spite of the great discrepancy in numbers and the large proportion from uncertain mints in the Attic hoard, a comparison of the two is of some interest. It will be seen that the eight mints represented in Attica are in this order of frequency in the two hoards:

<i>Attic Hoard</i>	<i>Alexandrian Hoard</i>
Nicomedia	Antioch
Cyzicus	Alexandria
Constantinople	Cyzicus
Heraclea	Constantinople
Thessalonica	Nicomedia
Alexandria	Rome
Antioch	Heraclea
Rome	Thessalonica

Analysis of these lists indicates that Athens' trade was chiefly with the Propontis (Nicomedia, Cyzicus, Constantinople and Heraclea), second with the north (Thessalonica), third with the south (Alexandria and Antioch). There are two differences between the lists. The first is that the mints of Antioch and Alexandria rank high at Alexandria and low at Athens. This is so natural that it calls for no comment. The other is more instructive: at Alexandria the mint of Rome is better represented than that of Heraclea and Thessalonica; at Athens there is only one Roman piece. Account should also be taken of the 156 pieces in the Alexandrian hoard from western mints other than Rome which are not represented at Athens at all. Yet Athens is nearer the west than Alexandria. Two explanations present themselves: either the old trade route across the isthmus of Corinth was largely abandoned at this time and Roman ships went to Egypt by way of Crete or Cyrene, or Athens had now become a provincial Aegean town lying off the main lines from Corinth to Constantinople and Alexandria. Some

¹ *L.c.*, p. 24.

evidence as to the first possibility is furnished by the excavations at Corinth. In 1925, there were, of course, a great number of Constantinian coins unearthed, but, as the condition of excavation coins is vile, the mint of most of these was quite beyond conjecture. Some could be made out, however, and they fall in this order:

Cyzicus	8	Alexandria	1
Constantinople	4 (possibly 6)	Siscia	1
Nicomedia	3	Lugdunum	1
Rome	1 (possibly 3)	Sirmium	1
Thessalonica	2		

Even with these scanty numbers it is at once apparent that the Propontis has a decided preponderance. The occurrence of western mints shows that trade through Corinth between the halves of the Roman world had not entirely ceased, but the proportions suggest that it was a trade of reduced importance and that Corinth looked rather to New Rome than to Old for her commerce.

The second possibility is undoubtedly supplementary to this. The trade between Corinth and the west had declined by the fourth century, and, of what was left, very little fell to the lot of Athens, which was now wholly dependent upon the markets of the east, particularly those in the vicinity of Constantinople.

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