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# ՀԱՅ ԴՐԱՄԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՆԴԷՍ

## ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

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### LETTERS

Անտառից հոգեզան մեծ աստղաձևեր ունեցանք: Դատաւարը հայրազուն լինելով անշահատանի եղբորդը, ճարտասա՞ն էր: Կարող եմ ասել, որ ինձ չէր քննարկել, եթե լինէր շտապ օգնութեան բաժնակից, ապա ուսուար է կոչակել ինչ կը լինէր:

Միզել անցել է երեք ամիս այդ ծանր գիրքից և մինչև օրս գտնուում է փոստատանոցում: Երևանեան շրջ երեք ամիսներին գտնուեցինք անընդհատ վազքի վեց: Անտառիցս Երևան անդամեսու փոխարինելով մենս միսսիս հեթանաասխան բնից հայրիկսու մահաակալի մոտ: Փառք Աստուծոյ, որ ծանր օտեղ մայցին ետևում: Այսօր նոր ատողապան փնջակը, բաւարար է և շուտով հիւանդանոցից տուն կը գերադառնամ:

Մանկէն առաջին օրուանից մինչև օրս գտնուելով հիւանդանոցում էր պարզը հաշտուել, որ հիւանդ է, որովհետև որ գրասեղանը աշխատանքներով ծանրաբեռնուած իրեն էր սպասում: Նա շատ օտագիր ունի, որոնք կարևոր են հայրից որոմամադիտապանին համար:

Արախտ Խաչեղեան  
Yerevan

Readers and collectors of the *Armenian Numismatic Journal* may wish to consider an inexpensive alternative to traditional cloth binding for protecting and organizing their loose *Journal* issues. Recently, I had my copies of the *Journal* (beginning with Volume I) "rebound." The process, which makes use of specially punched holes and a tight, semi-rigid plastic spine, is rapid and very inexpensive. It is available at Kinko's Copy Stores (a national chain) and elsewhere for as little as \$3.00 per binding. Volumes are very serviceable for occasional reading and use, have an attractive, professional appearance, and may be easily stored on a shelf. Various types of covers are available. I found it convenient to bind groups of two or three volumes together: vols. I-III, vols. V-VII, vols. VIII-X, vols. XI-XII, and vols. XIII-XV. I did not include vol. IV (the Sibilian commemorative volume) and Vol. XV (the Bedoukian festschrift), since these are special issues. I am very pleased with the result and recommend it to our subscribers.

L. A. Sarvan  
Greenfield, Wisconsin

**Announcement** A hoard of Tigranes II tetradrachms and drachms has been discovered. Unfortunately, the hoard was dispersed before information was gathered about it. At the present we have data on 20 pieces. If you have purchased any tetradrachm or drachm of Tigranes the Great since January 1, 1990, please send us an aluminum foil impression and metrological data for a report.

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## AN UNPUBLISHED COIN OF TIGRANES I

### Historical Background

Information concerning the events that took place in Asia Minor after Alexander the Great is sketchy. After the death of Alexander the Great (323 B.C.), his empire was divided by his generals. Seleucus created for himself a kingdom in Syria and Mesopotamia. Armenia was conquered by his successors but the Seleucids were never able to establish direct control over Armenia. They were satisfied by appointing satraps, called "strategos," from the local princes and collecting taxes from them. At this time Armenia was divided into four major segments: Armenia Major (Greater Armenia, east of Euphrates River), Armenia Minor (Lesser Armenia), Sophene, and Commagene.



Map of Armenia in ancient times

Under the rule of the Seleucid Antiochus the Great (223-187 B.C.), Artaxias was named as the strategos of Armenia Major, and Zariadres, strategos of Sophene. Artaxias and Zariadres (Artashes and Zareh in Armenian), taking advantage of the Seleucid defeat by the Romans at Magnesia (191 B.C.), declared themselves independent kingdoms. Rome recognized their status as independent kings. Therefore, two Armenian kingdoms coexisted at the same period. Armenian historians consider 189 B.C. as the year when the Artaxiad (Artashesian in Armenian) kingdom was created.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Armenian historian Moses Khorenats'i, Artaxias I (190-160 B.C.) struck coins with his effigy.<sup>2</sup> So far no coin has been found attributed to Artaxias I, the founder of the Artaxiad dynasty.<sup>3</sup> Khorenats'i also mentions that Artaxias ordered that the borders of villages and farms be marked with rectangular stones.<sup>4</sup> Recently, several such marker stones with Aramaic inscriptions have been discovered. One such stone found near the shore of Lake Sevan reads, "King Artaxias, the son of Orontid Zariadres." Artaxias established his capital Artaxiata (Artashat in Armenian) which was built at the suggestion of Hannibal of Carthage when he fled from the Romans and took refuge in Armenia. Artaxiata replaced the ancient capital cities of Armavir and Ervantashat. During the Artaxiad dynasty (189 B.C. - A.D. 6), Armenia reached the zenith of its political, military, and economic power. Several dynasties ruled Armenia thereafter but none approached the splendor of this dynasty.

Artaxias I was followed by his elder son Artavasdes I (160-123 B.C.). Artavasdes ruled thirty-seven years but so far no coins have been found which can be attributed to him. Artavasdes did not leave any heir; his brother, Tigranes I (123-96 B.C.), ascended the throne of the Artaxiads.

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<sup>1</sup> H. Manandian, *K'nnakan tesut'yun hay zhoghovrdi patmut'ian* [A Critical Survey of the History of the Armenian People] (Yerevan, 1944), Vol. I, pp. 100-135 (in Armenian); *Hay zhoghovrdi patmut'yun* [History of the Armenian People] (Yerevan, 1971), Vol. I, pp. 500-520 (in Armenian).

<sup>2</sup> Moses Khorenats'i, *Patmut'yun hayots'* [History of the Armenians] (St. Lazare, Venice, 1955), p. 193 (in Armenian); *History of the Armenians*, translation and commentary by Robert W. Thomson (Cambridge, MA, 1978), p. 147; *Haykakan sovetakan hanragitaran* [Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia] (Yerevan, 1976), Vol. II, pp. 139-140 (in Armenian).

<sup>3</sup> In 1971, Asbed Donabedian published a coin which he attributed to Artaxias I ("A Copper Coin of Artaxias I: The Founder of the Artaxiad Dynasty," *Haigazian Armenological Review*, Vol. II (1971), pp. 135-143, in Armenian with English summary). Bedoukian included this coin in his corpus (see below, note 13, pl. I, No. 2). A similar well preserved specimen was recently published by Mesrop Abgarians ("Four Rare Artaxiad Copper Coins," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. I, Vol. XVI (1990), No. 3, pp. 23-27, No. 4). Abgarians reattributed this copper coin to Artavasdes III (5-2 B.C.).

<sup>4</sup> G. A. Tiratsian, *Artashes A-i arameatar noragyt ardzanagrut'yunëh* [The Newly Found Aramaic Inscriptions of Artaxias I] (Yerevan, 1957), pp. 107-108 (in Armenian); *Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia* (Yerevan, 1984), Vol. X, p. 146 (in Armenian).

In the past, many western historians have not recognized Tigranes I. They regarded Tigranes the Great (95-55 B.C.) as Tigranes I. Manandian has a lengthy discussion on this subject. He points out that Parthian king Mithridates II (123-88 B.C.) conquered all the southern states neighboring Armenia. On the battlefield Armenia was defeated but not conquered. Furthermore, Tigranes II, heir to the throne of the Artaxiads, was taken to Parthia as a hostage. Appian testifies that Tigranes II was the son of Tigranes I who was the brother of Artavasdes I. The testimony of Appian is also verified by Moses Khorenats'i. Khorenats'i notes that Artavasdes had no son. His brother Tiran succeeded him. Tiran or Tigranes I was the father of Tigranes II. The modern eight-volume series *History of the Armenian People* and the thirteen-volume *Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia* have reached the same conclusion: Tigranes II was the son of Tigranes I; Artavasdes I and Tigranes I were brothers. Tigranes I ruled after the death of Artavasdes I.<sup>5</sup>

### Coinage of Tigranes I (123-96 B.C.)

Western numismatists were not strangers to the ancient coins of Armenia. They could read the Greek inscriptions and notice the characteristic Armenian tiara so prominently placed on the heads of Armenian kings. There existed considerable confusion however, in attributing them precisely. The main reasons probably were lack of a comprehensive study, paucity of specimens, and the fact that most coins were inscribed with just one or two names, either Tigranes or Artavasdes.<sup>6</sup>

Among European scholars Victor Langlois was the first numismatist to attempt a catalogue of the ancient coins of Armenia.<sup>7</sup> He listed all specimens known at that time and published their line drawings. As much as one can admire Langlois' initiative, it must be admitted that some of the attributions were questionable and the catalogue lacked a corpus. Later, a respectable treatise was written by Ernest Babelon,<sup>8</sup> and numerous other articles on ancient Armenian coins appeared.<sup>9</sup>

Recently R. D. Sullivan<sup>10</sup> and Clive Foss<sup>11</sup> authored lengthy articles on the coinage of the Artaxiads. Research on Armenian numismatics must be encouraged in the

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<sup>5</sup> Manandian, pp. 134-135; Alexandrini Appiani, *Historia Romana XI, De rebus syracis*, ed. L. Mendelsson, 2 vol. Bibl. Teubn (Leipzig, 1879), p. 48; M. Khorenats'i, translation by Thomson, pp. 203-204; *History of the Armenian People*, p. 553; and *Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia*, Vol. XI (Yerevan, 1985), p. 697.

<sup>6</sup> B. V. Head, *Historia Numorum: A Manual of Greek Numismatics* (reprint, Chicago, 1967), pp. 754, 772; George MacDonald, "The Coinage of Tigranes I," *Numismatic Chronicle*, Ser. IV, Vol. II (1902), pp. 193-201; et al.

<sup>7</sup> Victor Langlois, *Numismatique de l'Arménie dans l'antiquité* (Paris, 1859), 87 pp., 6 pls.

<sup>8</sup> Ernest Babelon, *Les Rois de Syrie, d'Arménie et de Commagène* (Paris, 1890), pp. CCI-CCVII, 213-216, 268.

<sup>9</sup> For a complete bibliography of material relating to this subject see Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature* (Los Angeles, 1984), pp. 266-317.

<sup>10</sup> Richard D. Sullivan, "Diadochic Coinage in Commagene After Tigranes the Great," *Numismatic Chronicle*, Ser. VII, Vol. XIII (1973), pp. 18-39.

numismatic community since there are many missing links and obscure areas. Sullivan and Foss find "no firm evidence that Tigranes I (123-96 B.C.) reigned at all." Both of them reject the attribution of any copper coin to Tigranes I on the grounds of "history and style." However, both of them failed to explain who ruled Armenia after the death of Artaxias I (190-160 B.C.) and accession of Tigranes the Great (95-55 B.C.) to the throne of the Artaxiads.

Under the rule of Tigranes II the Great Armenia climbed to an unparalleled power and prosperity. All rulers who followed him envied him, since none could emulate what he accomplished. Therefore, all the successors of Tigranes II the Great followed his pattern of coinage: obverse portraying the bust of Artaxiad king to right wearing a tall five-pointed tiara and on the side of tiara an eight-pointed star.

The coinage of Armenia, up to the period of Tigranes the Great was in a formative state. This could explain why coins of Tigranes I have a four-pointed tiara, eight-pointed star, and facing to left.

In attributing the coins of Tigranes I, Henri Seyrig<sup>12</sup> came closest. He mentioned a Senior Tigranes, a predecessor of Tigranes the great and probably his father. When five kings with the name "Tigranes" exist in a dynasty and none inscribe I, II, III, IV, or V next to his name on a copper coin more than two thousand years old, a numismatist can only examine the actual coin itself and evaluate the available data. Based on the design, style, fabric, and legend, the coins in question can be assigned only to one ruler, namely, Tigranes I (123-96 B.C.).

It was destined to Paul Z. Bedoukian to present the numismatic community with an attribution which was based on research, up-to-date historical and archaeological evidence, and a detailed corpus listing more 600 coins.<sup>13</sup> Even here Bedoukian would be the first to admit that because most of historic Armenia is occupied by Turkey and thus closed to archaeological excavations, future finds could not only complete the missing links in Armenian numismatics but also might necessitate reattribution of some Armenian coins.

Bedoukian attributed four types of copper coins to Tigranes I with the following reverses:

1. A tree and Greek inscription (No. 1).
2. Zeus Nicephorus seated on a throne, resting left hand on a sceptre, right hand holding a wreath, and Greek inscription (No. 2).
3. Standing figure to right, wearing a tiara, tunic descending to his knees, left hand holding an eagle, right hand holding a long spear, and Greek inscription (No. 3).

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<sup>11</sup> Clive Foss, "The Coinage of Tigranes the Great," *Numismatic Chronicle*, Vol. 146 (1986), pp. 19-66.

<sup>12</sup> Henri Seyrig, "Trésor Monétaires de Nisibe," *Revue Numismatique*, Ser. V, Vol. XVII (1955), pp. 87-128; p. 113, first paragraph, "... Aussi n'hésitons-nous pas à la donner à un prédécesseur de Tigrane le Grand, et très probablement à son père, Tigrane l'Ancien."

<sup>13</sup> Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia* (London, 1978), 81 pp., 8 pls.



1



2



3



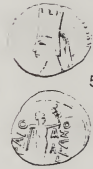
4



5a



5c (enlarged 2x)



5b



5d (enlarged 3x)

Y. T. Nercessian, An Unpublished Coin of Tigranes I

4. Nike [without wings] standing to right with a wreath in left hand, right hand raised up, and Greek inscription (No. 4).<sup>14</sup>

To these four coins, a fifth type needs to be added which was left out probably because of the lack of sufficient specimens to form a corpus even though it is discussed extensively in the coinage of Tigranes.<sup>15</sup>

5. Victory with wings standing to right, holding a palm branch in his right hand. In the field monograms AA one below another and Greek inscription (Nos. 5a, 5b. 5c, 5d).

Pellerin was the first (1762) to publish<sup>16</sup> a line drawing of this type of coin (Fig. 5a) which had the monograms AAMΣ. Later, another coin of Tigranes I was presented by Sestini.<sup>17</sup> Langlois published<sup>18</sup> the line drawing of a similar specimen with AA monograms (Fig. 5b). The specimen that Langlois described belonged to the "Cab. de France" (presently, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris). Langlois apparently considered the monograms on his specimen incomplete and preferred to discuss the monograms described on Pellerin's specimen. While there are four monograms, however, he chose to date only the last three Greek letters. According to Langlois, A M Σ represents the year 241 of the Seleucid era (A=1, M=40, Σ=200; AMΣ=241), or 71 B.C. It is interesting that both Pellerin and Langlois attributed their coins to Tigranes the Great (95-55 B.C.). In all fairness, it should be mentioned that Ernest Babelon<sup>19</sup> printed the photograph of the same coin and the weight 4.05 grams; although the legend was not very clear he interpreted the first three words of the inscription correctly, but attributed the coin of Tigranes I to Tigranes III (12 - 6 B.C.); he also mentioned poorly legible monograms. Henri Seyrig<sup>20</sup> described the same coin of Tigranes, published the correct Greek inscription, and mentioned that in the field are the letter M to the left and the letter A to the right, but gave it to Tigranes the Great. Seyrig described this coin in an article where he published a coin hoard found in Nisibis, southern Turkey, very close to Tigranocerta. The treasure consisted of 715 copper coins dating from 147 to 31 B.C. There were eleven copper coins of Tigranes I which Seyrig had given to Tigranes the Great. The hoard did not include any coins

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<sup>14</sup> *ibid.*, pp. 46-47, pl. I. Photographs 1-4, courtesy of Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian.

<sup>15</sup> *ibid.*, pp. 10-11.

<sup>16</sup> Joseph Pellerin, *Recueil de Médailles de Rois, qui n'ont point encore été publiées ou qui sont peu connues* (Paris, 1762), Vol. I, p. 116, pl. XIII, No. 14.

<sup>17</sup> Domenico Sestini, *Descrizione delle medaglie antiche Greche, del Museo Hedervariano dal Bosforo Cimmerico fino all'Armenia Romana* (Firenze, 1828), Part II, p. 380, pl. XXIX, No. 15.

<sup>18</sup> V. Langlois, p. 30, pl. II, No. 11.

<sup>19</sup> Babelon, p. 216, pl. XXIX, No. 18.

<sup>20</sup> Seyrig, pp. 112-118.




belonging to other Armenian kings of the Artaxiad dynasty. Jacques de Morgan<sup>21</sup> and K. J. Basmadjian<sup>22</sup> gave it to Tigranes IV (12-5 B.C. and 2 B.C.-A.D. 1).



A careful study of the Bibliothèque Nationale specimen plaster casts and pictures photographed from the actual coin (5c) reveal that Pellerin, Sestini, Langlois, Babelon, and Seyrig described the same specimen. This author can only assume that because of the poor preservation of the coin, Pellerin, Sestini, and others gave nonexistent obverse legends and added a few letters to the reverse monograms. The reverse legend and monograms of the Bibliothèque Nationale specimen are similar to the author's specimen legend and monograms given below.

At a recent auction of ancient coins conducted in Munich, Germany, the author successfully purchased an unpublished<sup>23</sup> copper coin of Tigranes I. The unique features and about very fine preservation status of this coin make it worthy of presentation in this paper (Fig. 5d).

The coin was not attributed properly in the auction catalogue. The cataloguer with a question mark gave the coin to Tigranes III (20-8 B.C.) and the weight was missing.<sup>24</sup>

Obverse: Head of the king to left, clean shaven and wearing a tall four-pointed tiara which seems to be adorned with a star in the middle. A diadem knotted at the back encircles the head and falls downward to his shoulders. Drapes cover the neck.

Reverse: Victory is standing to right. The wing is open and pointed downward. The right arm is outstretched straight ahead and holding a palm branch vertically. Underneath the right arm, in the field, are the two monograms AA one above the other (  ). To the left upward ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ / ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ, to the right upward ΤΙΓΡΑΝΟΥ / ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ (To Great King Tigranes, Philhellene).

Data: AE 18 mm, 6.14 g.,  Author's collection  
AE 18 mm, 3.99 g.,  Bibliothèque Nationale coll. (Pellerin, gen. fond 27)<sup>25</sup>

With regard to the Greek inscription of this coin, the top half of the first word and the bottom half of the last word do not appear on this coin as well as they should.

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<sup>21</sup> Jacques de Morgan, *Manuel de Numismatique orientale de l'antiquité et du moyen âge* (Paris, 1923-1936), pp. 193-194.

<sup>22</sup> K. J. Basmadjian, *Numismatique générale de l'Arménie* (Venice, 1936), p. 38 (in Armenian).

<sup>23</sup> Gerhard Hirsch, *Münzen und Medaillen antiken; Auktion 165* (München, 14 February 1990), p. 31, No. 505, pl. 19.

<sup>24</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> My thanks are due to Mme Dominique Gerin for providing information on Pellerin specimen and providing me with the plaster casts and photographs from the Bibliothèque Nationale.

A letter was drafted to the auction house and information was requested about subject coin's provenance, how it was found, the date, etc. A response indicated that they could not give any further information.<sup>26</sup>

On all Artaxiad coins, the king is facing to right. The coins of Tigranes I are the only known exceptions. According to the Bedoukian's corpus, the inventory of all known coins of Tigranes I is four types and a total quantity of twenty-one.<sup>27</sup> For a monarch who reigned for twenty-seven years this is a very small number. Tigranes I differs from all other Artaxiad rulers who succeed him. It was after Tigranes the Great who unified all Armenian lands into one country, and the coinage thereafter followed a set pattern, that is, the king's head turned right.<sup>28</sup>

Y. T. NERCESSIAN  
Pico Rivera, California

### ՏԻԳՐԱՆ Ա-Ի ՄԻ ԱՆՏԻՊ ԴՐԱՄԸ [ԱՄփոփում]

Ըստ Մ. Խորենացիին, Արտաշէս դրամ կտրեց իր պատկերով: Ցարդ Արտաշէսին վերագրուած դրամ չէ գտնուած: Ա. Տօնապետեան 1971 թ. վերապահութեամբ դրամ չը վերագրեց Արտաշէսեան հարստութեան հիմադիր Արտաշէս Ա-ին: Զարեհ Պտուկեան վերատպեց այս եզակի դրամը իր *Արտաշէսեան հարստութեան դրամները* գիրքին մէջ: Մ. Աբգարեանց *Հայ Դրամագիտական Հանդէսին* մէջ տպած (1990, էջ 23-37, թիւ 4) իր «Չորս հազուագիւտ Արտաշէսեան դրամներ» յօդուածով այս դրամը վերագրեց Արտաւազդ Գ-ին: Արտաշէսին յաջորդեց իր որդին Արտաւազդը, որմէ մեզի դրամ չէ հասած: Ապա Արտաշէսեան գահը բարձրացու Արտաւազդին եղբայրը՝ Տիգրան Ա:

*Արտաշէսեան հարստութեան դրամները* (Վիեննա, 1983) գիրքին մէջ, Զարեհ Պտուկեան տուած է Տիգրան Ա-ին (123-96 Ն.Ք.) չորս տեսակ պղնձեայ դրամներ: Դրամներու ետին դրուագուած եւ հետեւալները.

1. Ծառ մը և յուճարտար խորագրութիւն:
2. Զևս Նիկեֆոր Նստած է գահին, ձախ ձեռքը կը հանգչի մականի մը վրայ, աջ ձեռքը կը բռնէ պսակ մը և յուճարտար խորագրութիւն:
3. Աջ դարձած անձ մը, հայկական խոյրը գլխին, պարեգօտը մինչև ծունկերը, ձախ ձեռքով կը բռնէ արծիւ մը, աջով՝ Նիզակ մը և յուճարտար խորագրութիւն:
4. Յաղթանակը [առանց թևի] դէպի աջ, պսակ մը կը բռնէ ձախ ձեռքով, աջ ձեռքը վեր վերցնցած և յուճարտար խորագրութիւն:

Այս չորսին վրայ պէտք է աւելցնել հինգերորդ մը, որ հաւանաբար անբաւարար լաւորակ Նմոշի մը պատճառաւ գրքի կորպուսին մէջ մուտք

<sup>26</sup> Private communication dated May 2, 1990.

<sup>27</sup> Bedoukian, pp. 46-47, Nos. 3-6.

<sup>28</sup> Read during the May 12, 1990 meeting of the Armenian Numismatic Society in Glendale, California.

չէ գործած, հակառակ որ Պտուկեան քննարկած է այս տեսակը իր գրքին  
յէջ (էջ 10-11):

5. Յաղթանակը կանգնած է դէպի աջ: Թևը բաց է և ուղղուած է դէպի վար:  
Աջ բազուկը ուղղուած է դէպի առջև և ուղղահայեաց կը բռնէ  
արմատներին շիւղ յը: Աջ բազուկին Ներքև դաշտին յէջ կան երկու  
յուևարէն տառեր՝ ՄԻՆ ՄԻԼՍԻՆ վրայ Նստած (A): Զախին վարէն վեր՝  
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ/ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ, աջին վարէն վեր՝ ΤΙΓΡΑΝΟΥ /ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΟΣ (Արքայ  
Մեծին Տիգրանի, Յուևասէրի):

Չափագիտական տղևաւներ՝

18 ՄՄ, 6.14 գ.,  $\uparrow$

հեղինակի հաւաքածոն

18 ՄՄ, 3.99 գ.,  $\uparrow$

Bibliothèque Nationale-ի (Պեւլեոնի) հաւաքածոն

Չոս տեղին է յիշել, որ այս դրամը Նախապէս Նկարագրուած է Յ.  
Պեւլեոնի կողմէ (1762): Դրամի գծագրութեան վրայ կան AAMΣ յուևարէն  
տառերը: Իրմէ վերջ Վ. Լաւգլուա Նկարագրեց Նման դրամ յը, որուն  
գծագրութեան վրայ կան Միայն իրարու վրայ Նստած երկու AA տառերը:  
Լաւգլուան Նախընտրեց քննարկել Պեւլեոնի դրամին վրայի  
Նշանագրերը, որոնք իր կողմէ յէկնաբանուեցան 241 սեւևկեան  
թուագրութիւն կամ 71 Ն.Ք.: Պեւլեոնի և Լաւգլուա վերագրեցին իրենց  
դրամները Տիգրան Մեծին: Ե. Բաբելոն հրատարակեց Լաւգլուայի  
Նկարագրած դրամը և վերագրեց զայն Տիգրան Գ-ին: Իսկ Չ. Սէյրիզ  
Նկարագրեց սոյն դրամը Մծբինի դրամագիւտին հետ Միատեղ: Չոս կային  
715 պղնձեայ դրամներ, որոնց յէջ կային Տիգրան Ա-ի պատկանող 11  
դրամներ: Սէյրիզ բոլորն ալ վերագրեց Տիգրան Մեծին:

Փարիզի Bibliothèque Nationale-ի Նմուշին ուսումնասիրութիւնը եզրակացուց,  
թէ Պեւլեոնի, Լաւգլուա և այլ հեղինակներ Նկարագրած են Նոյն դրամը:  
Կ'երևի թէ դրամի վատ վիճակին պատճառաւ դրամագէտները  
արձանագրութիւնները սխալ ընթերցանած են: Bibliothèque Nationale-ի  
Նմուշին արձանագրութիւններն ու յենագրերը կը Նմանին վերև  
Նկարագրուած հեղինակին Նմուշին արձանագրութիւններուն ու  
յենագրերուն:

Արտաշէսեան բոլոր դրամներուն վրայ արքայի կիսանդրին ուղղուած է  
դէպի աջ: Միակ բացառութիւնը կը կազմեն Տիգրան Ա-ի դրամները, որոնք  
կը հային դէպի ձախ: Ըստ Պտուկեանի գիրքին՝ Տիգրան Ա-ի ընդհանուր  
դրամներու տեսակը չորս է և քանակը՝ քսանյէկ: Միապետի յը համար, որ  
գահակալէց քսանեթ տարի, այս դրամները կը Ներկայացնեն շատ  
սահմանափակ քանակ յը: Տիգրան Մեծն էր որ Միացուց բոլոր հայկական  
հողերը յէկ երկրի սահմաններուն յէջ. իրեն յաջորդող բոլոր  
տիրակալներուն դրամները հետևեցան հաստատուած աւանդութեան՝  
արքայի կիսանդրին ուղղուած դէպի աջ:

Ե. Թ. Ներսէսեան

Փիքօ Ռիվերա, ֆալսիֆորտիա

## ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

**07** ALMA. ALMA Plans Spring Opening in New Expanded Quarters. *Armenian Observer*, Vol. XX (17 January 1990), No. 9, p. 9; *Asbarez*, Vol. LXXX (3 February 1990), No. 8699, p. 30; *Nor Gyank*, Vol. XII (18 January 1990), No. 5, p. 49.

While publicizing the Armenian Library and Museum of America, mention is made that organization's collection also includes coins among other material and artifacts relating to the culture of Armenian people.

Ամերիկայի Հայ Գրադարանի ու թանգարանի յասիւն ծանուցման ընթացքին, յիշուած է թէ կազմակերպութեան հաւաքածոն կը պարունակէ դրամեր հայ յշակոյթի իրերու հետ միատեղ:

**08** HAYRENIKY DZAYN. Hushamedalner erkrasharzhi tarelits'in artiv [Medallions on the First Anniversary of Earthquake - Հուշամեդալներ երկրաշարժի տարեկիցին առթիվ. *Hayreniky Dzayn*, Vol. Vol. XXV (24 January 1990), No. 4 (1277), p. 5. In Armenian.

The West German firm Numiverzal-Mako has issued two medallions to mark the first anniversary of the 7 December 1988 earthquake of Armenia.

Արևմտագերմանական ֆիրման՝ Նումիվերզալ-Մակո թողարկած է երկու յուշամեդալ Հայաստանի 7 Դեկտեմբեր 1988 թ. երկրաշարժի առաջին տարեկիցին առթիվ:

**09** K'ALANT'ARIAN, Aram. *Dvin - Դվին*, գրեց՝ Արամ ֆալանթարյան. Yerevan: Committee for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments, 1988, pp. 12-19, illus. In Armenian.

Clay seals, and Sassanian, Byzantine, Arabic, Seljuq, and Georgian copper, silver, and gold coins discovered at the site of the city of Dvin are mentioned in the context of a general description of the city.

Յայտնաբերուած կաւէ կնքադրոշմերը և սասանեան, բիւզանդական, արաբական, սելջուկեան և վրացական պղինձէ, արծաթէ և ոսկիէ դրամները յիշուած են գրքի ընդհանուր նկարագրութեան յէջ:

**10** LRAPER. *Dramneri Iezun* [The Language of Coins] - Դրամերի Լեզուն. *Lraper*, Vol. XLII (24 March 1990), No. 25, p. 5. In Armenian.

The article mentions that the name of Armenia was first inscribed on the silver coin of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra (82-31 B.C.). In Armenia, first time a coin was struck during the period of King Arsames (third century B.C.). The titles of the Artaxiad kings of Armenia are engraved on their coins.

Յօդուածը կը յիշէ թէ Հայաստանի անունը առաջին անգամ արձանագրուած է Մարկոս Անտոնիոսի և կղէոպատրայի արծաթ դրամին վրայ (82-31 Ն.Ք.): Հայաստանի յէջ, առաջին անգամ դրամ թողարկուած է Օտփքի յէջ, Արշամ Թագաւորի տարիներուն (երրորդ դ. Ն.Ք.): Արտաշեսեան արքայներուն տիտղոսները քանդակուած են իրենց դրամներուն վրայ:

**11** NEUBECKER, O. *Heraldry: Sources, Symbols and Meaning*, by Ottfried Neubecker, J. P. Brooke-Little, and Robert Tobler. London: Macdonald & Co Ltd., 1988, pp. 168-169, 224, illus.

While discussing heraldry, a coin of Tigranes the Great and two coat of arms attributed to the kings of Cilician Armenia are displayed.

Գերբերու քննարկման առթիւ, պատկերուած են Տիգրան յեծի մի դրամը և երկու զինանշաններ վերագրուած Կիլիկեան Հայաստանի թագաւորներուն:

12 SARYAN, Levon A. Armenia's Stormy Heritage, by Leon A. Saryan. *Numismatist*, Vol. CIII (February 1990), No. 2, pp. 179, 224-227, 298-301, illus.

To introduce Armenian coinage to collectors attracted to the lesser-known corners of numismatics, Saryan presents a brief summary of three thousand years of Armenian history and numismatics. The following coins and paper money are presented: Levon I, coronation tram, half double tram, tram, and tank; Hetoum I, bilingual tram and tank; Levon III, takvorin; Gosdantin III, takvorin; and Republic of Armenia, 100 ruble bank note.

Նուազագոյն շանչցում զրամագիտութիւնը՝ սետաքըքուող դրամահաւաքներուն ծանօթացնելու համար, իր պատկերացումին մէջ Սարեան կ'ամփոփէ երեքհազարամեայ հայոց պատմութիւնն ու դրամագիտութիւնը և կ'ընծայէ հետեւեալ դրամներն ու թղթադրամները.- Լևոն Ա, օծման դրամ, կես երկդրամ, դրամ և դանգ. շեթում Ա, երկվեզուան դրամ և դանգ. Լևոն Գ, թագուորին. Կոստանդին Գ, թագուորին և Հայաստանի Հանրապետութիւն, 100 ռուբլիոց թղթադրամ:

13 SARYAN, Levon A. Ancient and Medieval Armenian Coinage, by L. A. Saryan. *Coin News*, Vol. XXVI (November 1989), No. 10, pp. 24-28, illus.

Blending numismatics and history together, the author surveys the coins issued by the kings of ancient and medieval Armenia. In this commentary the coins of Xerxes of Sophene (ca 220 B.C.), Tigranes I (123-86 B.C.), Tigranes II (96-55 B.C.), Artavasdes II (56-34 B.C.), Levon I (1198-1219), Hetoum I (1226-1269), and Levon III (1301-1307) are presented. The names of individuals through whose efforts the modern collector is able to retrieve knowledge on Armenian numismatics are mentioned.

Բաղադրելով դրամագիտութիւնն ու պատմութիւնը, հեղինակը կը քննէ հին ու միջնադարեան Հայաստանի թագաւորներու թողարկած դրամները: Այս մեկնաբանութեան մէջ նկարագրուած են ֆետրքեսի (շուրջ 220 ն.ժ.), Տիգրան Ա-ի (123-96 ն.ժ.), Տիգրան Բ-ի (96-56 ն.ժ.), Արտաւազդ Բ-ի (56-34 ն.ժ.), Լեւոն Ա-ի (1198-1219), շեթում Ա-ի (1226-1269) և Լևոն Գ-ի (1301-1307) դրամները: Յիշուած են նաև այն անձերը որոնց աշխատութիւններուն շնորհիւ արդի դրամահաւաքը կարող է հայ դրամագիտութեան վերաբերեալ տեղեկութիւն իւրացնել:

14 SARYAN, Levon A. Collecting Armenian Coins: a Beginner's Guide, by Levon A. Saryan. *Ararat*, Vol. XXXI (summer 1990) No. 3, pp. 50-54, illus.

The article presents basic information needed by a collector of Armenian coins: why collect Armenian coins, what types of Armenian coins are readily available, where do Armenian coins come from, how does one get started, is there a central source for books and information, where can a new collector obtain some Armenian coins, what factors are involved in coin selection, how does one house and care for a collection, how much should one expect to pay for Armenian coins, are Armenian coins a good investment, and how can one be certain a coin is authentic.

Հայ դրամահաւաքներու օգտին համար՝ յօդուածը կ'ընծայէ հիմնական ծանօթութիւններ.- ինչու հաւաքել հայկական դրամներ, ինչ տեսակ հայկական դրամներ իրիւրութեամբ կարելի է գտնել, հայկական դրամները ուրկից կու գան, մէկը ինչպէս կրնայ սկսիլ, կեդրոն մը կ'այ գիրքերու և ծանօթութեանց համար, դրամահաւաք մը ուրկից կրնայ ձարել հայկական դրամներ, ինչ կետեր կ'որոշեն դրամի մը ընտրութիւնը, ինչպէս մէկը կրնայ պահպանել և խնամք տանիլ իր հաւաքածոյին, մէկը որչափ պէտք է ապրկալ վճարել հայկական դրամի մը համար, հայկական դրամները արդեօք տրտեսապար լաւ շահագործում են, և ինչպէս դրամահաւաքը կրնայ վստահ ըլլալ որ դրամը հարազատ է:

#### DONATIONS

(Period ending 30 September 1989)

Jamgochian, N.....	50.00	Saryan, L.....	10.00
Jernukian, A.....	12.00	Setian, Ch.....	42.00

## 1990 READERS' POLL

1. Continue as you have been doing. You are doing great.  
X (# 1, 2, 27, 36, 37, 40, 41, 43, 53, 55, 59, 60, 61, 62, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165)
2. A philanthropist should pay all of our publication expenses and the books should be distributed free of charge to members, schools, libraries, etc.  
X (# 133)  
a. A philanthropist should pay part of our publication expenses and the books should be distributed at reduced charge to the members, schools, libraries, etc. (# 10, 41, 146)  
b. Great idea if you can find someone. (# 42, 146)  
c. If you can find one, otherwise, see below, Nos. 5a and 6a. (# 97)  
d. A great deal if you can find one. How about an organization such as AGBU? (# 139)
3. Membership dues/subscription rates should be high enough to cover our publication expenses and the books should be distributed free of charge to the membership.  
X (# 12, 105, 145, 153, 154, 160, 164, 166)  
a. Membership dues/subscription rates should be high enough to cover part of our publication expenses, and books should be distributed at a special rate to the membership. (# 41, 146)  
b. Increase dues? (78)  
c. Membership dues/subscription rates should be high enough to cover our publication expenses. (# 107)  
d. Quarterly publication, yes, but not free books. (# 10)
4. Present dues should be sufficient to receive the Society's publications without extra charge.  
X (# 10)  
a. Raise membership dues to \$12/year. (# 37)  
b. Present dues should be raised to \$15-20. (# 41)  
c. How could this be true? (# 139)
5. If we do not have the money and no one is purchasing them let's slow down or stop for a while.  
X (# 10, 15, 31, 43, 55, 94, 139, 160)  
a. However, I appreciate the publications and hope we can keep them up. (97)
6. a. Very few people are interested in numismatics. We should do only what our funds allow. (# 11)  
b. I would be willing to pay more in dues to offset any losses. (# 40)  
c. Are we doing enough to advertise and publish more book reviews? (# 41)  
d. I, for one, only have a passive interest in the Society and do not know that much about Armenia since my background is not that nationality. Thus, I am not likely to buy any of the books. But I think you should continue, as you are doing the collecting fraternity a great service. And if any of the books are written in Armenian, how many can read it? (# 42)  
e. Members should be able to pay a little more per year, but the idea of keeping dues minimal will hopefully appeal to young people who will be the able to continue the Society's work in the future. (# 97)  
f. It's worth more than \$8.00 yearly dues. I'm enclosing \$20.00. Can you print something philatelic occasionally? (# 107)  
g. Include postcards. Send a new membership card. (# 137)  
h. You don't expect to sell too many specialized books anyway, so don't be discouraged. (# 139)  
i. What I am trying to say is that the combination of 2a, b and 3b would be more effective for the Society and the expenses would be within our means. (# 146)

- j) Each option has merit and there is a good reason why some combination of the above could be employed. I would not mind higher dues and free distribution and some publications (for example, The Society's journal, important scholarly work, etc.) (#185)

## SOME COMMENTS BY YOUR SECRETARY AND EDITOR

1. Continue as we have been doing. If our finances permit, this seems to be the most logical way to go.
2. It would be nice if we could find a philanthropist who would pay all or a part of our publication expenses. If we do find one, our journal can be a very attractive publication. So far, we have not been able to find someone who would be willing to pay a large proportion of our publication expenses. Our members already purchase the Society's publications at a reduced price (about 20% off).
3. As the membership dues go up, the number of members declines. On the other hand if we need to raise our dues to a point that we can publish one book every other year, and publish an attractive and glossy journal (each issue 16 pages, 6" x 9" format), it would require about \$12,000 per year, roughly, more than \$100 per member per year!
5. We have done some advertising in various trade publications. The result was poor.
6. Relating to write-in comments!
  - In our journal the contents depend on what we receive for publication, we print whatever is received from the membership assuming that it has not been published previously.
  - Normally, when the books are published, sufficient announcements/reviews have appeared. If our members would like to write new reviews and submit to other journals, obviously it would not hurt but help. Members are encouraged to do this. All of us are members of this Society, no one needs to be bribed to work. The reward is in emotional gratification which cannot be purchased with money.
  - During the past few years we have been offered to publish five books. This would require a budget of \$90,000.00. We are finally out of the red, and just have paid all of our debts, but are not in a financial position to undertake a major publication.
  - So far, all the books we have published have been in English language with Armenian summaries. Issues of the *Armenian Numismatic Journal* have had mixed content (more than 2/3 in English).
  - Our books which have ISBN number are listed in *Books in Print* and other publications. Occasionally, bookstores and organizations order our books this way.
  - Recently, our application papers and flyers on our eight publications were posted on the NumisNet, thanks to the efforts of a very devoted person, L. D. Mitchell. I recommend that you read his accompanying essay on this subject.
  - I do not know much about postcards. If there is someone among our membership knowledgeable about them, perhaps they can take the challenge.
  - Our stock of membership cards is running low. If we can purchase a computer form membership card which can be printed on Macintosh Plus computer, perhaps we can issue a new membership card every few years if not once a year.

**A Final Note** In responding to the ballot/questionnaire, many of you were generous, opened your checkbooks, and made donations to the Society treasury. Some others sent \$10, 12, or 20 as annual membership dues with a note saying that they do not want a receipt. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you. All these responses and donations emanating from the heart of each member is a vote of confidence for the work we are doing.

Y. T. Nercessian

## Why NumisNet...?

Much has been written in the hobby press about our collective inability to attract new, especially young, collectors. While much can be made of "basics" like market size and skill set distinctions of traditional collecting, these alone cannot account for our dismal record in attracting new hobbyists. More basic to our failure than any of the above is our seemingly reluctant to "sell out" to potential hobbyists in any media except print.

Despite the fact that most major school districts in the U.S. make heavy use of TV (video and computers), and despite the fact that virtually every home in America has a TV (and an increasing number have personal computers!), I am unaware of any major effort being made by any numismatic club or organization anywhere in the world to consistently utilize non-print media to recruit new hobbyists.

The ANA has produced a few videotapes...investors and dealers use computers and modems to "make deals" ...there are fledgling efforts like NumisNet and CompuServe's Collectibles Forum to connect collectors via computer and modem...but for the most part, the hobby simply seems uninterested in reaching out to folks who are just as likely to crack open software as they are to "crack a book" in pursuit of a new hobby.

Why is this? If the technology exists to transmit the latest issue of *The Numismatist* to a collector sitting at his home computer in a matter of minutes over ordinary phone lines, why aren't we doing it? If a potential collector can download official membership applications for two dozen different clubs in a matter of seconds over ordinary phone lines, why aren't numismatic clubs and organizations taking advantage of this technology?

A single commercial on MTV, if successful, would garner our hobby so many new collectors that it would positively embarrass all previous recruiting efforts! Yet, except for a few "investment touts" on the Financial News Network, our hobby has avoided TV like the plague.

Do we have a collective fear of technology? If not, why aren't we using TV, video, computers and modems to **recruit new hobbyists**...?

NumisNet, mentioned above, is a first effort to tie together collectors worldwide via computer and modem. Devoted exclusively to numismatics, NumisNet offers collectors the opportunity to electronically exchange ideas and information about any aspect of numismatics 24 hours a day!

Does your club want to recruit more members...sell more books...exchange ideas and information with other numismatic clubs and organizations worldwide more quickly and efficiently? NumisNet can help, as members of the Armenian Numismatic Society will soon discover...!

The Society recently posted an Official Membership Application on NumisNet, as well as Order Forms for all Society publications. This should lead to both increased membership and increased publication sales, thereby allowing the Society to fund projects which have been put on the "back burner" until now. But great ideas go nowhere without support. If you have a computer and a modem, why not call NumisNet at 301-498-8205 (300/1200/2400 Baud) and see what you've been missing...?

L. D. MITCHELL  
Laurel, MD