

## Numismatic News from Lycia 2021/2022

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In the course of the past two years, an extraordinary number of important Lycian coins from the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC have (re)appeared on the international market. This is partly due to the dissolution of the so-called “Collection of a man in love with art” by the auction-house *Numismatica Ars Classica* of Zurich and London, caused by the untimely death of the collector in 2014<sup>1</sup>. However, all the coins of this group had been well known before being added to that collection, which had been assembled within a period of two decades only. Most of them came with long and impressive pedigrees and had therefore been published before, - often even more than once.

However, during the same time many new coin types or hitherto unpublished variants, which were either completely unknown or insufficiently understood up to that date, have shown up in trade. Since the numismatic record of dynastic Lycia is still far from the stage, where any attempt for the compilation of a general corpus can be made, all those pieces should be presented and discussed in a scientific and not just in a commercial context. There is no inner coherence among the coins added to this summary: They belong to various mint-authorities and originate from different periods and locations within sub-Achaemenid and Hellenistic Lycia. Several of the coins have slept for years in various old collections; some may also have been coming from scattered recent finds. For the sake of convenience, they are presented here in the order of their appearance at the market.


The author has only included coins, whose attribution to Lycia cannot be disputed and which - in his opinion - add important information to the repertory of Lycian coins hitherto published<sup>2</sup>. Thus, the following listing is almost certainly not complete, and the author apologizes for any mistakes or omissions incurred.

1. Triton XXIV, January 2021, 726: Dynast Āmñartite. Stater of eastern standard, about 475 BC, Zagaba mint. Crab/Triskeles (to l) within pearled rim and square incuse, in the field fragmentary and apart from a few letters [↓, ^, ♪, ♪, ♪] illegible legend). 9,51 g



The coin, coming from a private collection, had been questioned before being consigned to the sale. The present author, who was consulted one year earlier, had identified the same

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<sup>1</sup> Part 1: NAC 116, October 2019, 195-198; Part 2: NAC 123, May 2021, 748-763; Part 3: NAC 124, June 2021, 223-227; Part 4: NAC 126, November 2021, 246-253.

<sup>2</sup> All too often coins of a somewhat unusual type or of uncommon properties are attributed to Lycia without good reason and are simply labelled as «Unpublished» without sufficient research, in particular by numismatists in charge of compiling sales catalogues. This is the principal reason, why a revised summary and essential discussion of the various new appearances outside of their commercial context becomes necessary.

obverse-die on an undisputed issue in the name of Ām̄martite from Zagaba<sup>3</sup>, thus confirming the authenticity of the piece.

2. V Auctions / NBJ Auction 2, April 2021, 3: Dynast Kuprlli. Stater of Persian standard (!) about 475 BC, Zagaba mint. Forepart of boar to r. / Triskeles with swans-heads (to l.) within pearled rim and square incuse, in the field legend ΚΟΡΡΑΛΕ. 10,43 g.



The coin came from CNG 99, 2015, 291. None of the auctioneers had recognized the importance of the coin's distinctive weight. The adoption of the so-called Persian standard is only known for the earliest issues in the name of Kuprlli from mints in Central Lycia, while the swans- or geese-heads adorning the arms of the triskeles actually point to issues from Zagaba<sup>4</sup>.

3. Leu Winterthur E-auction 16, May 2021, 1098: Uncertain dynast. Hemiobol of western standard, about 380/70 BC, Xanthos mint. Head of Athena with crested attic helmet to r. / Eagle standing to r. in square incuse, in the field legend ΠΠΕΛΠ. 0,36 g.



The coin belongs apparently to the reign of Wekhsere II or of Mithrapata at Xanthos (see also below no. 19).

4. Leu Winterthur E-auction 16, May 2021, 1105: Uncertain dynast. Sixth stater of eastern standard, about 480 BC, Limyra mint. Goat striding to r. / Triskeles (to l.) within pearled rim and square incuse, no legend. 1,39 g.



The coin is a smaller denomination yet unpublished of the known Goat-series struck at Limyra around the time of Kuprlli (compare the third stater with the name of the dynast SNG Cop. Suppl. 419 or the anonymous hemiobol Müseler 2016, IV/19).

5. Leu Winterthur E-auction 16, May 2021, 1107: Dynast Artumpara. Sixth stater of western standard, about 370 BC, Telmessos mint. Head of Athena with crested attic helmet to r. / Head of Heracles with lion-skin to r. within pearled rim and circular incuse, in the field legend ΠΠΤΟΜΑΡΠΠ. 1.07 g.



The coin is a fraction of the Telmessian stater of this dynast in the Copenhagen collection<sup>5</sup>.

6. NAC 125, June 2021, 333: Dynast Kuprlli, Stater of western standard, after 450 BC, Xanthos mint. Seated sphinx to r. with hair in sakkos / Triskeles (to l.) within pearled rim and square incuse, in the field legend ΚΟΡΡΑΛ[Ε]. SNG Cop. Suppl. 412. 7,81 g.



The first specimen recognized of this very rare issue was the stater in the Copenhagen collection cited above, which was originally purchased in a 1988 sale of Münz-Zentrum Köln. Before

<sup>3</sup> Vismara 1989, 57 and Müseler 2016, III/16.

<sup>4</sup> Müseler 2021, p. 47 sqq.

<sup>5</sup> SNG Cop. Suppl. 458.

only diobols of the same type had become known<sup>6</sup>. However, the coin in Copenhagen is so damaged by test cuts that an identification with the present type can easily be overlooked. This mainly concerns a rather remarkable feature of the image, the fact that the head of the seated Sphinx shows a similar elaborate hairdo as the two guardian-sphinxes on the gable of a monumental sarcophagus from the Xanthian acropolis (Building H), now in the British Museum. This can perhaps be seen as an indicator for the provenance of the issue from Xanthos. During the past thirty-five years not more than three examples of these staters (including the present specimen) have surfaced.

7. Rauch E-auction 37, July 2021, 81: Uncertain Dynast. Stater of reduced eastern standard (?), about 480 BC, unknown mint. Forepart of Boar to l. / 2 crossed bars in geometrically subdivided square incuse, in the field linear symbol ☉ and two Lycian letters. 9,33 g.



The appearance of the linear symbol ☉ on coins of this type is also attested otherwise<sup>7</sup>. Unusual, however, are the accompanying two letters: The one in the lower right corner is clearly the Lycian  $\text{P}$ , but the one in the upper left is of somewhat peculiar shape. It looks like a Latin letter D. Comparison with other early Lycian coin legends (for example the rendering of Kuprili's name on SNG v. Aulock 8479) reveals that the Lycian letter  $\text{P}$  is occasionally executed in this form. This legend would therefore spell as *Ar...*, the beginning of the Toponym *Ar̄nahe* for Xanthos. This could possibly confirm the hypothesis that several of the anonymous coins of reduced eastern standard with Forepart of boar / Incuse of geometrical shape with two crossed bars have indeed been struck in the Xanthos-valley<sup>8</sup>. Thus, this otherwise unspectacular coin might become a highly important piece of evidence.

8. Demos Auction 5, October 2021, 191: Dynast Arssāma, Trihemiobol of western standard, about 380/360 BC, Xanthos mint. Helmeted head of Athena to r. / Head of Apollon with laurel wreath and long hair to r., in the field legend  $\text{P}\text{P}\text{I}\text{V}\text{P}$ . Müsseler 2016, VII 35-36. 0,87 g.



The first part of the legend was misread on the pieces hitherto published as the beginning of the word  $\text{P}\text{P}\text{I}\text{V}\text{P}$ , the Lycian name of Xanthos. Thus, the three letters at the end of the reverse-legend defied any plausible interpretation. But in a paper introduced below I. Adiego could show that the legend must in fact be read as  $\text{P}\text{P}\text{I}\text{V}\text{P}$ , a personal name of Persian origin<sup>9</sup>. They can therefore no longer be identified with the issues of the same type but adorned with a small diskeles and bearing the name of Xanthos, which should be attributed to the younger Wekhssere. Though clearly deriving from the diskelophoric series the issues without that symbol and in the name of a certain Arsames must probably be dated somewhat later and rather belong to the time of Artumpara.

<sup>6</sup> Mørkholm – Zahle 1972, p. 70, 189-190.

<sup>7</sup> See for example Babelon, *Traité* II/1, 797 sqq.

<sup>8</sup> See also Müsseler 2021, p. 75.

<sup>9</sup> Adiego nd.

9. CGB Auction December 2021, 62: Dynast Ēkuwēmi. Third stater of eastern standard, about 470 BC, Zagaba mint. Forepart of boar to l., on the shoulder Triskeles (to r.) / Triskeles (to l.) within pearled rim and square incuse, in the field legend ḲOFḲME. 2,70 g.



A denominational “missing link”; stater and sixth stater are already published<sup>10</sup>.

10. Obolos 21, January 2022, 492: Dynast Mithrapata. Obol of western standard, about 380 BC, uncertain mint (?). Unrecognizable design, struck from a heavily worn die/ Standing owl to l. in square incuse, in the field legend ΜΕΧΡ. 0,67 g.



The author is not able to discern the image of a lion's forepart to l., that should - according to the cataloguer - be visible on the obverse of the coin. He has seen, however, a number of diobols and obols in a private French collection (yet unpublished) with a similar owl and the abbreviated name of Mithrapata on the reverses. But the obverses of all these coins, which were allegedly acquired from Münzen & Medaillen AG Basel during the seventies of the past century, show a helmeted head of the goddess Athena to r. or to l. of a comparatively late style like on the anonymous piece in Copenhagen SNG Cop. Suppl. 504.

11. Triton XVV, January 2022, 281: Dynast Kheriga. Stater of eastern standard, about 440/430 BC, Phellos mint. Female head, hair in band, to r., on the neck letter T / Owl standing to l., head facing, in the centre of a tetraskeles (to l.) in square incuse, in the field legend F↑+IT↑IḲ. Cfr. Weber Coll. 7232. 9,34 g.



The coin from the Weber Collection, now in the British Museum, is struck from the same obverse-die but coupled with a reverse-die bearing a longer legend, which makes mention of the dynast's name as well, and where the symbol  $\text{Ϝ}$  is added to the field<sup>11</sup>.

12. Triton XXV, January 2022, 283: Dynast Kherēi. Stater of Phellos-type but aligned to the Ionian Standard with Ephesian countermark, about 428 BC, uncertain mint in the Maeander valley (?). Female head, hair in band, to l., on the cheek c/m insect (bee?) of coarse design between 2 spirals in rectangular punch / Owl standing to l., head facing, in square incuse, in the field legend V↑PḲE [F↑+IT?]. Cfr. Müseler 2016, VI/1 and Vismara 1989, 167. 7,46 g.





Although almost certainly not from the same dies as implied by the cataloguer the coin is clearly a contemporary copy from the early issues in the name of Kherēi struck around 430/428 BC at Phellos, which are quoted above. But the respective models are more than 2 g. heavier, and there is no way that the present coin may have lost such a lot of weight by simple wear or by an error of the mint. Its weight of 7,46 g. corresponds rather exactly to the standard of Ephesian didrachms circulating in the Maeander valley during the same period. The

<sup>10</sup> Müseler 2016, III/9 and Babelon, *Traité* II/2, 251.


<sup>11</sup> Müseler 2020, p. 8, 3.3.1.

countermark depicting a rather coarsely designed bee is pointing in the same direction. The application of countermarks on coins is often the result of interregional circulation. They signify the acceptance of certain coins as means of payment at a market distant from their area of origin. On Lycian coins from the dynastic period they are only rarely to be found. But this particular light-weight coin in the name of Kherēi has probably been crafted voluntarily for use in the Maeander valley, where it received its countermark as a certificate of its acceptance as legal tender. Background of this operation may have been the participation of Lycian troops in the campaign led by Amorges against the Athenians under the command of Lysikles at Mount Thorax in the summer of 428 BC, which is mentioned at some length in the inscription on the southern side of the Xanthos-stele praising the deeds and achievements of Kherēi<sup>12</sup>.

13. Leu Winterthur, E-auction 19, February 2022, 1460: Dynast Teththiweibi, Obol of eastern standard, ca. 450 BC, Phellos mint. Female head, hair in band, to l. / Owl to l. in pearl rim and square incuse, in the field legend  $\Upsilon\uparrow\chi$ . 0,79 g.   
An unpublished denomination of a known but extremely rare issue<sup>13</sup>.

14. Poznański Dom Aukcyjny 19, March 2022, 1458: Dynast Kheriga, Sixth stater of western standard, ca. 430 BC, Kadyanda mint. Helmeted head of Athena to l./ Head of Hermes with winged petasos to r. in incuse square, in the field legend  $\vee\uparrow\text{PEP}[\uparrow?]$ . 1,15 g. 

The type corresponds to the somewhat later issues of the dynast Hñtruma from the town of Kadyanda but is clearly in the name of Kheriga. Apparently, this outpost on the north-western border to Caria has occasionally been used as a mint-place also by other dynasts before and after Hñtrumas period<sup>14</sup>.

15. Roma E-auction 98, May 2022, 385: Uncertain dynast (Pe...?), Third stater of eastern standard, ca. 450 BC Kerththi mint Forepart of horned griffin to r. / Forepart of Pegasus to r. in incuse square, above legend  $\cap\uparrow(?)$ , to right legend  $\kappa\uparrow\text{P}\chi$ . Except for two other specimens from the same pair of dies in Roma E 96, 2022, 388 (3,23 g) and Roma E 97, 2022, 351 (3,18 g), otherwise unpublished. 3,09 g. 

Kerththi is a place name mentioned in several lines of the inscription on the eastern side of the Xanthos Stele (TL 44 b 10; 44 b 49; 44 b 55)<sup>15</sup>. Although its exact location has not yet been identified, the context of 44 b 49 suggests that it must have been just like Tymnessos somewhere in the mountains between Kandyba, Phellos and Xanthos. So far no coins could be assigned to that place. The use of a forepart of a horned griffin on the obverses points to the same general area, since the very motif has been employed for coins from Phellos and from Tymnessos from the times of Teththiweibi and of Kuprlli<sup>16</sup>. The legend  $\cap\uparrow$ , which must

<sup>12</sup> See Schürr, 2009, 157-176; Thonemann 2009, 167-194; Müseler 2016, p. 65 sq.

<sup>13</sup> Müseler 2021, p. 71, 12.6.

<sup>14</sup> For the later employment of the mint of Kadyanda by Artumpara see Müseler 2019, p. 63 sqq.

<sup>15</sup> See Neumann 2007, p. 164 sq.

<sup>16</sup> See Müseler, 2021, p. 82 sqq.

certainly be read as the abbreviation of a dynasts name, defies however any attempt for a rational reconstruction. In any case the coins appear far too early for issues in the name of Perikle.

16. Heritage (US) 3099, May 2022, 30071: Dynast Ddēntimi, Stater of western standard. ca. 380 BC, Tlos mint. Lions mask facing / Youthful male head with laurel wreath (Apollon?) to r. in pearl rim and circular incuse, in the field legend ΔΔΥΙΤΕΜΕ ΤΑΡΡΕ. 8,35 g.



Only obols of this rare type have been known so far<sup>17</sup>. However, the appearance of a stater belonging to this series was to be expected.

17. Leu Winterthur E-auction 20, June 2022, 1321: Dynast Kherēi, Stater of western standard, 430/410 BC, uncertain mint (Pinara?). Head of Athena with attic helmet to r. / Head of lion to r. in square incuse, no legend. 8,33 g.



Though without any distinguishing legend the head of Athena on the obverse-die of this issue is extremely close to the ones of the series from Pinara with the head of Kherēi in Persian garb<sup>18</sup>. The coin could be part of a special issue like the series with the facing Gorgoneion from the mint of Tlos<sup>19</sup>.

18. Leu Winterthur E-auction 20, June 2022, 1318: Dynast Kherēi (?), Obol of western standard, 430/410 BC, uncertain mint. Facing male head with long ears / Triskeles (to r.) in pearled rim and square incuse, in the field legend √↑. 0,55 g.



19. Leu Winterthur E-auction 20, June 2022, 1317: Uncertain dynast (Wekhssere II. or Mithrapata), Obol of western standard, 390/370 BC, Xanthos mint. Head of Athena with attic helmet to r. / Bearded and horned head of a river-god (?) to r. in square incuse, in the field legend ΠΡΕΙΝ[Ρ]. 0,51 g.



See also above no. 3.

20. Naumann 117, June 2022, 470: Uncertain dynast (Tha...?), Underweight stater of eastern standard after ca. 475 BC, Phellos mint. Dolphin to r. and fish to r. over pearled groundline, in between pearl / Triskeles (to r.) in pearled rim and square incuse, in the field hitcher-symbol and legend F↑. 7,74 g.



The coin belongs to the Dolphin series of Phellos of the period preceding the issues of Kuprllli. This group contains also other coins of remarkable low weight<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>17</sup> Müseler 2019, p. 44-45, VI.2.2 - VI.2.4b.

<sup>18</sup> Müseler 2016, p. 138, VI 49 sqq.

<sup>19</sup> Müseler 2020, p. 75, 6.10.

<sup>20</sup> Müseler 2021, p. 62 sq., 9.1-2.

During the same period five more hitherto unpublished additions to the series of Hellenistic ship-staters from Phaselis have been offered at the market, underlining once again the need for a completely revised edition of Heipp-Tamers catalogue from 1993<sup>21</sup>:

21. CNG E-auction 484, January 2021, 377: Stater 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, Phaselis. Ships prow, in the field bunch of grapes / Ships stern, below small dolphin in the field legend ΦΑΣ. 10,38 g.



22. CNG 117, May 2021, 243: Stater 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, Phaselis. Ships prow, no additional adornments / Ships stern, no additional adornments, in the field legend ΦΑΣΗ. 10,37 g.



23. Naumann 109, October 2021, 54: Stater 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, Phaselis. Ships prow, decorated with Gorgoneion, to r., in the field cicada / Ships stern in the field wreath and legend ΦΑΣ. 10,38 g.



24. Triton XXV, January 2022, 279: Stater 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, Phaselis. Ships prow, decorated with Gorgoneion, in the field cicada / Ships stern, above scorpion, below small dolphin, in the field legend ΦΑΣ. 10,26 g.



25. Palombo 20, January 2022, 26: Stater 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, Phaselis. Ships prow, decorated with dolphin / Ships stern, in the field legend ΦΑΣ and ΑΚΟΥΣΙΑΔ. 10,39 g.



An alleged addition to the inventory of the later series struck by the Lycian league is, however, quite dubious:

26. Roma E-auction 89, October 2021, 799: Drachm 27/20 BC, Masikytos mint. Bare head of Agrippa (????) to r., in the field letters Λ - Υ / Two kitharas, below legend MA. RPC I, 3309 (var.?); Troxell 1982, 121 (var.?). 3,30 g.



The cataloguer seems to be confident that on this particular specimen the head of Agrippa is depicted instead of the one of Augustus. Given the rather schematic representation of Augustus on provincial coins this seems highly speculative. However, as demonstrated by the enormous price, that the piece realized (GBP 1900.-), people have apparently believed this claim!

<sup>21</sup> Heipp-Tamers 1993.

During the period considered for this essay four new studies focused on Lycian coinage and history have been published or come to the attention of the present author:

**F. Büyükyörük – A. Çelik, Mithrapata ve Aruwatijesi (Musa Dagi?) Definesi, Cedrus VII, 2019, 239-265.**

The authors publish a small hoard of 68 post-reform silver coins in the name of Mithrapata and of Aruwātijesi found near the location of Olympos above the Lycian east-coast, thereby proposing an earlier dating for the respective settlement than previously assumed.

**W. Müseler, Kheriga and Kherēi in Central Lycia and in the Xanthos-valley: The rise of a migrant dynasty, Schweizer Numismatische Rundschau 98, 2020, S. 57-84 + Tf. 10-12 (cited as Müseler 2020).**

The author examines the origins of the Xanthian dynasts Kheriga and Kherei from Phellos in Central Lycia. and their family-relationship to the local dynastic clan of Teththiweibi.

**W. Müseler, Der Dynast Kuprlli und seine Zeitgenossen: Rivalität und Kooperation im sub-achämenidischen Lykien, JNG 71, 2021, S. 25-116 (cited as Müseler 2021).**

The author develops a new system for the attribution of Kuprlli's various known coinages, thereby demonstrating the roots of this dynast in Eastern and Central Lycia and the "feudal" structure of his later realm, that covered almost all of the peninsula.

**I. Adiego, A new Lycian ruler, in: The Luwic dialects of the Anatolian Group, Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Luwic workshop, Santiago de Compostela 2022 (forthcoming – cited as Adiego nd).**

The author identifies a number of previously known trihemiobols<sup>22</sup> from the Xanthos mint as strikings in the name of a certain dynast Arssāma, who is closely related to but not identical with the younger Wekhssere. He attempts to make a connection between the money-issuer and agents bearing the same personal name, which are mentioned by various Lycian inscriptions (TL 29 and N 318) from the early 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.

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It is planned that these reports on newly discovered coins from Lycia and summaries of new studies concerning Lycian numismatics will be continued on an irregular scale in the future.

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<sup>22</sup> Müseler 2016, p. 158, VII 35-36ē.



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### **Likya'dan Numismatik Haberleri 2021/2022**

#### **Özet**

Bu yazı, bir yandan Likya'da basılmış antik sikkelerin bilinen serilerinden son zamanlarda uluslararası piyasalarda ortaya çıkan ve şimdiye kadar bilinmeyen tipleri veya yayınlanmamış varyantları izleyen, diğer yandan sadece bibliyografik referansları değil, aynı zamanda ilgili makalelerin kısa özetlerini de sağlayarak alandaki yeni araştırmaları tanıtan yeni bir serinin başlangıcıdır. Bu yazı serisinin düzenli bir şekilde, derginin belki de gelecekteki her ikinci veya üçüncü sayısında devam etmesi amaçlanmaktadır. Okuyucular dergiye katılmaya ve ilgili gözlem ve görüşlerini yazara veya derginin editörlerine göndermeye davet edilmektedir.

*Anahtar Sözcükler:* Likya, sikkeler, haberler.

### **Numismatic News from Lycia 2021/2022**

#### **Abstract**

This is the beginning of a new series monitoring on the one hand hitherto unknown types or unpublished variants from known series of ancient coins struck in Lycia, that have recently appeared at the international markets, and introducing on the other hand new research in the field by providing not only the bibliographical references but also short abstracts of the respective articles. It is meant to be continued on a fairly regular basis, perhaps in every second or third future issue. Readers are explicitly invited to participate and send in relevant observations and remarks to the author or to the editors of the journal.

*Keywords:* Lycia, coins, news.