



Series I

Volume XXVII, No. 4

December 2001

ՀԱՅ

ARMENIAN

ԴՐԱՄԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ

NUMISMATIC

ՀԱՆԴԷՍ

JOURNAL

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ՀԱՅ ԴՐԱՄԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՆԴԵՍ ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

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Vol. XXVII, No. 4

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GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

ԼԱՒ ԼՈՒՐԵՐ, ՎԱՏ ԼՈՒՐԵՐ

I'll give the good news first:

The Society has many valuable, no longer in print, books on Armenian numismatics. We have had them for too long a time with selling, because, we do not advertise. For those interested in enlarging their references, THE SOCIETY HAS DECIDED TO SELL THEM AT HALF PRICE, WHICH WOULD BE LESS THAN THE PRESENT PRINTING COSTS. For a list of the books, see the attached list. While you are in the buying mood, why not purchase one of the silver Bedoukian medals at \$40.00 each (\$35 for members). Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian (deceased on June 29, 2001) has been one of the greatest authorities on Armenian numismatics.

Now the bad news:

The costs of operations of our Society FOR PUBLICATION, AND POSTAGE STAMPS EXCEEDS OUR INCOME FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS. Our one man operation, secretary Yeghia Nercessian donates all of his time (home office, resources, etc., FREE OF CHARGE!). He is totally dedicated to the dissemination of Armenian numismatics. I believe that he has now become one of the world's leading authority in this field. We should be proud of having such a person as the working head of our one only Armenian Numismatic Society.

It saddens us to announce that reluctantly we must raise the regular annual dues to \$35.00 per year, non-member subscription \$50.00 per year.

Luther Eskjijan,
President

Նախ պիտի տամ լաւ լուրերը:

Կազմակերպութիւնը ունի բազմաթիւ հայ դրամագիտական գիրքեր, որոնք տպուած են շատ տարիներ առաջ: Քանի որ մենք թերթեալ մէջ չենք ծանուցաներ, ասոնց վաճառում եղած է դանդաղ: Անոնք որ կը փափաքին ճոխացնել իրեն զբաղարանները, ԿԱԶ-ՄԱԿԵՐՊՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ ՎՃՌԱԾ Է ԾԱՍԵՆ ԶԱՆՆՈՒՐ ԿԷՍ ԳԻՆՈՎ, ՈՐ ՊԻՏԻ ԸԼԱՏՆ ԵՆԵՐ-ՎԱՏ ՏՊԱԳՐԱԿԱՆ ԾԱՍՍԵՐԸՆ ՇԱՏ ՊԱՆԿԱՍ: Գիրքերու ցանկին համար տեսնել կցւած զբացուցակը: Եթէ լաւ տրամադրուած էք, նաև ինչու չզննել շատ մը Պտուկեանի արծաթեայ մեդալներէն, հատը՝ \$40 (անդամներու համար \$35): Դոկտ. Զարեհ Պ. Պտուկեանը (մահացած՝ Յունիս 29, 2001) եղած է հայ դրամագիտութեան մեծագոյն հեղինակներէն մին:

Հիմա վատ լուրերը:

Մեր կազմակերպութեան ընթացիկ ծախսերը, ՏՊԱԳՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ ԵՒ ԱՌԱՔՄԱՆ ՀԱՄԱՐ ԿԸ ԳԵՐԱԶԱՆՑԵՆ ՄԵՐ ՀԱՍՈՑԹՆԵՐԸ, ՈՐՈՒՐ ԿԸ ԳՈՑԱՆԱՆ ԱՆԴԱՄՏՈՒՐԵՐԷ ԵՒ ԲԱԺԱՆՈՐԴԱԳՐՈՒԹԻՒՆՆԵՐԷ: Մեր աստիճանագրուած ԶՐԻԱԲԱՐ կը նուիրէ իր բոլոր ժամանակը, ինչպէս նաև իր միջոցները: Ինք ամբողջովին տողորուած ու նուիրուած է հայ դրամագիտութեան տարածման ճանքը: Ինչ ամբողջովին արժանաւորուած է կոչուելու աշխարհի մեծագոյն հեղինակութիւններէն մին: Մենք պէտք է պատիւ զգանք որ նման անձ մը կը ղեկավարէ մեր եզակի Հայ Դրամագիտական Ընկերակցութիւնը:

Միզ խորապէս կը տուրեցնէ յայտարարելու թէ անհրաժեշտ է բարձացնել մեր տարեկան անդամատուրքը \$35-ի, իսկ բաժանորդագրուածները՝ տարեկան \$50-ի:

Լուիսեր Էսկիյան,
Նախագահ

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL is the quarterly publication of Armenian Numismatic Society, an educational, non-profit organization. Editor, Y. T. Nercessian, 8511 Beverly Park Place, Pico Rivera, CA 90660-1920, USA (e-mail: ArmNumSoc@aol.com). Associate Editors, W. Genewian and T. Nercessian, Corresponding Editors, L. A. Saryan and V. Yegparian. Non-member subscriptions US \$50.00 per year. ISSN 0884-0180—LCCN 85-649443

ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 9, 2001, an e-mail was received from Yerevan, where they informed us that they have received the books we shipped early this year. During the months of May and June 2001, Armenian Gospel Mission shipping containers carried 11 boxes of ArmNS books (116 copies SP-9), auction catalogues, and numismatic journals donated by the Armenian Numismatic Society (valued \$10,000). The State History Museum of Armenia, in Yerevan, undertook the responsibility of distributing these books to the libraries of Armenia and Arts'akh. The auction catalogues are for their own use.

LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

Այն հաւանականութիւնը, հրատարակելու մի գիրք՝ *Armenian Coin Auctions and Values of Armenian Coins վերնագրով*, կարծում ենք ոչ միայն ցանկալի է, այլ և խիստ անհրաժեշտ, քանի որ ինչպէս Ամերիկայում, նոյնպէս և արտասահմանեան գրեթէ բոլոր երկրներում, դրամները նոյնպէս ենթակալ են է՛ւ աճուրդային վաճառքի (որը ինչպէս երևում է տաղափոխուում է և Հայաստան)։

Նկատի ունենալով, այդ ասպարէզում տարիների ընթացքում ձեռք բերած, Ձեր գիտելիքները և մասնագիտացումը, այդ մեծ համբերութիւն և աշխատանք պահանջող գործում, որի լաւագոյն ապացոյցն է Հայ Դրամագիտական Հանդէսում մէկ տասնհալից աւելի Ձեր կողմից կազմած և հրատարակած դրամների աճուրդային կատալոգների փաստը։ Առանձին զբքով այն հրատարակելը կարծում եմ Ձեր պարտքն է հայ դրամագիտութեան զարգացման առջև։

Դրամների աճուրդային վաճառքը, ինչպէս իրաւացիօրէն նկատել էք Դուք, ունեն իրենց բացասական կողմերը։ Յատկապէս գանձերը մասնատուելով կորցնում են, ճշտելու նրանց աշխարհագրական տարածումը, հետևաբար և Հայաստանի առևտրական կապերի ոլորտի ճշտումը և այլ մանրամասնութիւններ։ Սակայն օգնում են դրամագէտներին և դրամահաւաքներին, նոր կատեգորիաներ տարիքային կնիքների ձեռք բերումով կողմնորոշուելու, ոչ միայն պատմութեան տարբեր ժամանակահատուածներում -- տուեալ իշխանութեան տնտեսութեան զարգացման մակարդակը և այլ հարցերը։

Այն բարեփոխումներն ու լրացումները որ նախատեսել էք Դուք կատարել աճուրդային դրամագիտաներում, լիովին բաւարար են, լուծելու և զբքի սպառման հարցը, քանի որ, այն կ'օգնի հակական դրամներ Ձեռք բերողներին, աւելի դիւրին կողմնորոշուելու դրամները աբկօզային տատանումների վերաբերեալ հարցերում և ներկայացուած արժէքների (գնքերի) միջև։

Մ. Կարապետեան

My only comment about the proposed book is to postpone this project until more of the others are sold. I am not privy to the finances of the society but the idea of assuming yet additional debt does not seem prudent.

L. A. Saryan

I would like to inform you that since June 4, 2001 the newest Armenian bank note will be issued into the circulation - 50,000 Dram.

Bagrat Sahakyan

DONATIONS

(Period ending 30 September 2001)

Anonymous.....	\$20	Hagopian, L.....	\$25
Arlis, H.....	\$50	Eskijian, L.....	\$10
Bedoukian, Dr. P. and Mrs.	Books	Keshishian, J.	\$5
Gewenian, W. numismatic auction catalogues for Armenia		Schott, D. F.....	\$25
		Setian, Ch.....	\$75

**A DATED COPPER COIN OF ARTAXIAS II:
EVIDENCE ON THE USE OF
THE POMPEYAN ERA IN ARTAXATA**

PLATE 3

RUBEN VARDANYAN
State History Museum of Armenia,
National Academy of Sciences
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography

Recently, M. Zardaryan published two copper coins discovered in the excavations of ancient Artaxata in 1985, rightfully attributing them to Artaxias II (30-20 B.C.).¹ The coin descriptions follow:

1. Obv.: King's head to right, with a short beard. The tiara, only three peaks of which are visible, is adorned with an eight-rayed large star and has only a neck flap. The diadem and its ribbons behind the head are depicted with two lines. Shallow border of dots.
Rev.: Cornucopia with tail to the left, adorned with ribbons. Legend to right downward ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ; to left downward ΑΡΤΑΞΕΡΕ; in outer right field letters CA, in outer left field letters XP (probably X[B]).
Weight 3.84g., diam. 17.3 mm, die axis, 12 o'clock
State History Museum of Armenia, No. 19878/49, Fig. 1
2. Obv.: King's head to right, with a short beard. Five-pointed tiara is adorned with a star and has only a neck flap. Shallow border of dots.
Rev.: Bunch of grapes.²
Weight 1.75g., diam. 12.1 mm, die axis, 12 o'clock
State History Museum of Armenia, No. 19878/54, Fig. 2

The name Artaxerx[es] is distinctly legible on the first coin. Taking into consideration its fabric, style, and lettering, this is an Hellenistic coin and cannot be dated later than the end of the first century B.C.

After Tigranes the Great there is no other king except Artaxias II (Artashes in Armenian) who could have issued this coin. The name of the king is mentioned by the ancient authors as Artaxias or Artaxes, however, not in the form of Artaxerxes.³

Hence, now we can say with certainty that Artaxias II minted coins of which two examples are known to us.⁴ The first coin is noteworthy for two good reasons: first, the

¹ M. Zardaryan, "Unique Coins from the Excavations of Artaxata, Artaxias II," *Coinage in Armenia: Republican Scientific Session, November 21, Theses of Reports* (Yerevan, 1998), pp. 5-7; also "The First Coins of Artashes II, and Historical-Numismatic Fragments from the Last Period of the Artaxiads," *Numismatic Researches* (Yerevan, 2000), pp. 6-11 (in Armenian).

² No inscription is visible on the second coin. If it were on the die of the reverse side, then it is off the edge of this very small-sized flan. The coin is ascribed to Artaxias II, based on the iconographic and stylistic characteristics of king's portrait.

³ R. Vardanyan, "A Counterfeit Silver Coin of 'Divine Artaxerxes,'" *Patma-Banasirakan Handes* (1999), No. 1, pp. 321-326 (in Armenian).

⁴ Before the discovery of this coin, some other copper coins, with different iconography had been attributed to Artaxias II, but the king's name is illegible: see P. Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia*

date of striking is engraved on the coin; second, without doubt, it has the mark of value as well. In the right field, the letters CA can be interpreted only as the date $\zeta\Lambda=36$,⁵ which is read from right to left. It cannot be the 36th regnal year of king's accession to the throne, since Artaxias II ruled over the country only 10-11 years; therefore, these field letters indicate a date expressed according to an era. This evidence prompted us to reflect once again on our thesis proposed some years ago concerning the dating of municipal coins of the city of Artaxata.⁶ According to this thesis, the field letters ZE and $\Theta\Xi$ on these coins, indicating the years of minting, are ascribed to an era which could have started in 66 B.C., the year a peace treaty was signed between Pompey the Great of Rome and Tigranes II the Great of Armenia. According to the terms of this peace treaty, Tigranes preserved his power on the territory which he and Pompey agreed upon, and he was proclaimed "the ally and friend of the Roman people."⁷ Hence, if we calculate the date based on this era, one of the Artaxata municipal coins is dated A.D. 1/2, and the second, A.D. 3/4.⁸ Using the Pompeyan principle of dating as reference, calculating from 66 B.C., the number 36 on the copper coin of Artaxias II corresponds to 31/30. Namely, this is the first year of the enthronement of Artaxias II, which in itself is another strong evidence to attribute this newly discovered coin to the same king and also confirms the use of the Pompeyan era of dating in the city of Artaxata.

In 66 B.C., according to the law of Manlius, the Roman Senate empowered Gnaeus Pompey to declare war against Mithridates of Pontus. After winning the war against Mithridates and hurling him beyond the borders of Pontus, Pompey entered Armenia and marched to Artaxata. Tigranes, who had broken his connection with his former ally and father-in-law, willingly went to Pompey's camp. Tigranes was recrowned by Pompey as king of Armenia. According to the peace treaty concluded in Artaxata, Tigranes lost Phoenicia, Syria, and some other provinces. However, he preserved his authority, the Roman commander recognized his title of "King of Kings," and he became "the ally and the friend of the Roman people."⁹ On the other hand, according to the same treaty, the legitimate supreme power in the East passed from Tigranes to

(London, 1978), pp. 29, 70, No. 136; Kh. A. Mousheghian, *The Monetary Circulation in Armenia (V c.B.C.-A.D. XIV c.)*, (Yerevan, 1983), p. 57, No. 48 (in Armenian); Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Their Values* (Los Angeles, 1995), p. 77, No. 139, etc. According to the latest numismatic publications, newly discovered drachms surfaced which are attributed either to Artaxias II (A. Ronde, H. Torossian, "Une drachme inédite (?) d'Artaxas, roi d'Arménie (30-20 av. J.C.)," *Bulletin de la Société française de Numismatique*, Vol. 52 (1977), No. 2, pp. 25-26; Y. T. Nercessian, "A Silver Coin of Artaxias II (30-20 B.C.)," *Armenian Numismatic Studies* No. 2, pp. 133-137, pl. 33, reprinted from *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. 1, Vol. XXIV (Los Angeles, 2000), pp. 133-137, pl. 33, reprinted from *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. 1, Vol. XXIV (September 1998), No. 3, pp. 29-31; or Artaxias III, L. A. Saryan, "An Unpublished Silver Drachm Attributed to Artaxias III (A.D. 18-34) of Armenia," *American Journal of Numismatics*, Second Series, Vol. 9 (1997), pp. 7-16 and its Armenian version in *Patma-Banasirakan Handes* (1998), No. 3, pp. 155-162. For my point of view concerning these pieces, see R. Vardanyan, "A Counterfeit Silver Coin of 'Divine Artaxerxes'," see above, note 3.

⁵ M. Zardaryan, "The First Coins of Artashes II...", pp. 9-10. Admitting $\zeta\Lambda$ as a numeral, M. Zardaryan accepts the possibility of its representing a date. He sees some connection between the numerals of this coin and the silver coins of Tigranes the Great, and considers them as "technical monograms." The numerals that are found only on drachms and tetradrachms of Tigranes the Great with the title of "King of Kings" are very well commented as dates both from the numismatic and historical points of view. See R. Vardanyan, "Le titre de 'roi des rois' dans les relations entre les Parthes, l'Arménie et Rome," in: *Roma-Armenia (Grande Salle Sixtine, Bibliothèque Apostolique du Vatican*, 25 Mars-16 Juillet 1999), p. 43-47; P. Варданян, "Великий царь царей Фарнак", *Боспорский город Нимфей: новые исследования и материалы и вопросы изучения античных городов Северного Причерноморья* (St. Petersburg, 1999), pp. 14-17 (in Russian).

⁶ R. Vardanyan, "On Two Groups of Dated Armenian Coins of Hellenistic Period," *Patma-Banasirakan Handes* (1987), No. 2, pp. 195-207 (in Russian with Armenian summary).

⁷ H. Manandian, *Tigrane II et Rome* (Lisbon, 1963), p. 172.

⁸ The possible historical interpretation of Artaxata municipal coinage is given in the paper above, see note 6.

⁹ R. Vardanyan, "Le Titre de «roi des rois» dans les relations entre les Parthes, l'Arménie et Rome," *Roma-Armenia (Grand Salle, Bibliothèque Apostolique du Vatican*, 25 mars-16 juillet 1999), pp. 43-47.

Pompey.¹⁰ From the autumn of 66 B.C. to the spring of 64 B.C. Pompey was engaged in a useless pursuit of Mithridates Eupator, fighting against the Iberians, Caucasian Albanians, and finally conquering Pontus. In the spring of 64 B.C., he moved to Syria. Pompey, considering Syria a country that formerly belonged to Tigranes the Great, did not recognize the legitimacy of the rule of the Seleucid king Antiochus XIII, who was rehabilitated to his rights by Lucullus.¹¹ At that time, some communities in Syria and Phoenicia began to use a new era of dating, which was reflected especially on the dated coins minted by them. It is supposed that the new era could have been used in Armenia beginning in the fall of 66 B.C., when Tigranes surrendered to the mercy of Pompey on the approaches to Artaxata. Pompey legally captured Assyria at that time and the principle of dating by the era of the Syrian kingdom was ended. Justin meant just this when he wrote that "hence being ascended to the Syrian throne, he (Tigranes) has ruled for 17 years quite peacefully," (Just. XL, 1), namely, from 83 B.C. to 66 B.C.¹²

However, it was not everywhere that the Pompeyan era was calculated from 66 B.C. Sometimes the municipal community adopted a new era in honor of the autonomy or in memory of some other privileges awarded to the city by Pompey. Sometimes the initial point was acknowledged as 64 B.C., the year when Pompey arrived in Syria and Antiochus XIII was dethroned. The date of minting on municipal coins reveals that the use of different eras in the same city depended on the political situation. It is worth digressing at this point to give some additional information on the *Pompeyan era* of dating. Its existence and use in certain cities of Syria and Phoenicia has been persuasively explained by numismatist H. Seyrig.

The year 66 B.C. is accepted as the beginning of the *Pompeyan era* in Antioch where the coins issued from 48/47 are dated according to this principle of dating.¹³ The use of the same era, calculated from 66 B.C., is also seen on the coins of another large city in Syria, Apamea, where the coins struck from 60/59 B.C. to 41/40 are dated according to the Pompeyan era.¹⁴ There is proof concerning the use of the Pompeyan era of dating in cities of Arethusa (Syria),¹⁵ and Phoenician cities of Tripolis,¹⁶ Dora,¹⁷ and Demetrias,¹⁸ where the initial point of dating was considered the year 64 or 63 B.C.

¹⁰ H. Seyrig, "Antiquités syriennes. Sur les ères de quelques villes de Syrie," *Syria*, Vol. XXVII (1970), pp. 11, 19.

¹¹ Seyrig, *op. cit.*, where he refers to J. Dobias, "Archiv Orientalny," III (1931), p. 240.

¹² And yet Appian mentions that in Syria Tigranes ruled 14 years, that is to say up to 69 B.C., *App., Syr.*, 70.

¹³ The Seleucid era was used in the municipal bronze coinage of Antioch up to 69 B.C. The year when Lucullus began to rule, municipal coin minting stopped and resumed again in 64 B.C. when Pompey arrived in Antioch and allowed coin minting. After the battle of Pharsalus (June 6, 48 B.C.), when Julius Caesar won a victory over Pompey, the coins struck in Antioch, from 48/47 B.C. up to 19/18 B.C., are dated by Caesarian era. After 7/6 B.C., the coins are dated by the Actium era in honor of the victory that Augustus Octavian gained over Marcus Antonius on September 2, 31 B.C. See Seyrig, *op. cit.*, pp. 15-20.

¹⁴ The city of Apamea began to strike bronze coins starting in 76/75 B.C. dated according to the Seleucid era (up to 68/67 B.C.). The privilege of coinage in that city might have received from Tigranes, who was ruling Syria at that time. Antiochus XIII, who was recognized by Lucullus, probably deprived Apamea of minting rights, but the city gained its rights, again, in the seventh year of the Pompeyan era, and the first issues of the new series are dated according to this principle of dating. During 38/37-15/14 B.C. the Apamean coins, again, are dated by the Seleucid era. Apamea, unlike Antioch, did not use the Actium era, but for a short time, from 41 B.C. to 39 B.C., it had been using the era which was established in honor of the autonomy awarded to the city by M. Antonius, and the 4/3 B.C. coin bearing the portrait of Augustus is dated by the 28th year of his rule. See Seyrig, *op. cit.*, pp. 15-20.

¹⁵ An inscription discovered in the ancient site of Arethusa and a coin struck there in the time of Diadumenian A.D. 217/218, allows us to reclassify the succession of the use of the following eras: Seleucid, Pompeyan (ca. 63 B.C.), and once again Seleucid and then finally Actian. See Seyrig, *op. cit.*, pp. 20-21.

Now let us discuss the two letters read in the outer left field. The letter in the left field is clearly read X. For the letter in the right, only the upper portion is visible, resembling P. But if we examine the coin carefully, it is possible to consider that in reality it is a B, the lower portion of which is eradicated or not preserved. In any case we can have two variants, XP or XB.²¹ What do these two letters mean? It is clear that they cannot indicate a date. If the first version is correct (XP), then it can be supposed to be initials of a mint official. But if the letters are read as XB, the most probable assumption is that those letters are the mark of a nominal value—two (B) chalci (X), as was sometimes done on Seleucid²² and Parthian²³ coins.

The chalcus was the main monetary denomination of copper coins in Greek and Hellenistic world, usually in correlation with silver obol by 8:1 ratio.²⁴ Theoretically, the chalcus must have weighed about 8.60 grams, though in reality, it did not adhere to a definitely established constant weight, and in different places and different times, its weight fluctuated from 1-2 to 8-9 grams. For example, during the Seleucid period the chalcus struck in Nisibin weighed about 2.5 grams, and the coin struck in Seleucia on Tigris weighed about 5 grams; correspondingly, a tetrachalcon weighed about 10 and 18 grams. In the vast copper coinage issued by Tigranes the Great, the weight fluctuations are very apparent, especially for Nike and Tyche types; in ordinary daily life the value of a denomination of a copper coin was identified not so much by its size and weight, but by its reverse iconography type.²⁵ As for our two coins, the weight of the first one (No. 1), is almost twice as heavy as the second one (No. 2): 3.85 grams and 1.75 grams. This weight correlation, two different reverse types (cornucopia and bunch of grapes) along with above mentioned X[B] mark on the heavier specimens of those coins indicate that we are dealing with two different denominations: dichalcon and chalcus. As much as the weight of copper coins was variable, the weight of coins of Artaxias II was mostly reduced. There may have been two reasons for a newly crowned king to issue such underweight coins, a ruined economy and or lack of raw metal necessary to strike coins. The value was marked on the coin so that it would be clear to the population that those small-sized and light-weight coins should be circulated as dichalcon. The same thing could not have been engraved on a chalcus because of its extremely small size.

Summarizing the comments made above, we may conclude that the dates of Artaxata municipal coins and the newly found coin of Artaxias II offer evidence that the *Pompeyan era* was used in Artaxata, beginning in 66 B.C.

Athens (struck from the end of the third century to the end of the first century B.C.). In both cases, however, it was necessary to take the coinage under strong control, because the coins were struck very intensively, not occasionally, from time to time, or even once a year, but nearly every month and in large quantities. According to the facts at our disposal, this cannot be said about the issues of Artaxata.

²¹ The presence of letter Σ (or E) on the right side of XP, as mentioned by M. Zardaryan ("The First Coins of Artashes II...", p. 9) is not acceptable, but is still open to question.

²² See, e.g., *Sylloge Numorum Graecorum Italia; Milano Civiche Raccolte Numismatiche 12/1 (Seleucides - Chalcidice)*, (Milan, 1992), p. 46, No. 156, on obverse, above the head of Antiochus IV — XB (two chalci), p. 152, No. 97, on obverse, behind the head of the same king AX (one chalcus) (note that in both cases letters X and B, A and X are above each other). See also, E. Babelon, *Traité des monnaies grecques et romaines*, I partie, Théorie et doctrine, tome I (Paris 1901), pp. 462-465.

²³ See, e.g., D.G. Sellwood, *An Introduction...*, p. 40, types 12.14, 12.15, 12.17, where on obverse there are letters BX (above each other) behind the head of Mithridates I, meaning 'two chalci.'

²⁴ The ratio between obol and chalcus could have been higher, increasing till 1:12-16, see e.g., E. Babelon, *op. cit.*, p. 462; X. Fengler, G. Girou, V. Unger, *Dictionary of the Numismatist* (Moscow, 1993), p. 351.

²⁵ R. Vardanyan, "Remarks on the Metrology and Chronology of Bronze Issues of Tigranes the Great," *Scientific Session in Memory of Alek Manukian, "Problems of Armenian History and Culture," Theses Reports* (Yerevan, 1997), pp. 8-10.

It can be speculated that the city of Artaxata had also its own municipal era of dating, beginning from 9/8 B.C.

If our thesis presented above is confirmed with other examples, we shall be able to say confidently that Artaxias II has issued coins of two denominations, nominally valued coins bearing the letters XB, with two chalcic inscription, and lighter one chalcus pieces.

Hoping for discoveries of new coin hoards and leaving aside the numismatic and historical analysis of Artaxias II's coinage, we want to emphasize that the elder son of Artavasdes II saved from captivity in 34 B.C., "was elected by warriors as a king instead of (Artavasdes)",²⁶ but he was forced to struggle against the Roman soldiers left behind in Armenia by Antony, and also against King Artavasdes of Atropatene. In 31/30 B.C., with the support of Parthians, Artaxias II established his rule in Armenia, and on the first opportunity he undertook his own coinage, apparently for political consideration to declare the restoration of the legitimate power, and at the same time, referring to the peace treaty signed between Pompey the Great and Tigranes the Great.

ԱՐՏԱՇԷՍ Բ-Ի ՏԱՐԵԹՌԻԱԿԻՐ ՊՂԻՆՁԷ ԴՐԱՄԸ՝
ԱՐՏԱՇԱՏՈՒՄ ՊՈՄՊԷՑԵԱՆ ՏՈՄԱՐԻ
ԿԻՐԱՌՄԱՆ ԵՒՍ ՄԻ ՎԿԱՑՈՒԹԻՒՆ
[Ամփոփում]

1985 թվականին Հին Արտաշատի պեղումներից յայտնաբերուել են երկու պղինձ զրամներ, որոնք վերագրուել են Արտաշես Բ-ին (Չարդարեան 1998): Դրանից մէկը (ԱԿ՝ արքայի դիմապատկերը, ԲԿ՝ ամսթեղջիւր, գրութիւնը՝ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΡΤΑΞΕΕΞ, կշիւրը 3.84 գ., տրամ. 17.3 մմ, առանցք. ուղղ. 12: Նկար 1) դարձերեսի արտաքին ալ դաշտում ունի թողարկման տարեթիւ՝ CΛ=36: Այս դրամը Արտաշատի տարեթուակիր քաղաքային զրամների մասին, որի սկիզբը համարուում է Արտաշեսեանների մայրաքաղաքում մի տոմարի կիրառման մասին, որի սկիզբը համարուել է Ն.Ք. 86 թ.: Պոմպէոսի և Տիգրան Մեծի միջև կնքուած հաշտութեան պայմանագրի տարիներէն է Ն.Ք. 86 թ.: Պոմպէոսի և Տիգրան Մեծի միջև կնքուած հաշտութեան պայմանագրի շարքին էլ Անտոնինոսի կողմից թողնուած հռոմէական ժողովրդի դաշնակից և բարեկամ: Պոմպէոսին պատկանող Տիգրան Մեծի և Հռոմը ներկայացնող Պոմպէոս Մեծի միջև կնքուած դաշնակցային պայմանագիրը:

Նոյն դրամի դարձերեսի արտաքին ձախ դաշտում, հատուցուել եղբրին, երևում են XP տարուերը, որոնք, մեր կարծիքով, կարող են վերականգնուել որպէս XB և նշանակել «երկու քաղկոս», ինչպէս որոշ սելևկեան և պարթևական թողարկումներում:

Ռուբէն Վարդանեան
ՀՊՊԹ

²⁶ Dio, XLIX, 39.6.

THE MYTH OF TIGRANES THE YOUNGER COINS

PLATE 3

Y. T. NERCESSIAN

In a recent article,¹ the author published a new type of copper coin portraying a "young looking" Tigranes on the obverse; on the reverse is Tyche of Damascus standing left, resting her right hand on tiller of rudder and holding with left a cornucopia. This coin provided the missing link to other coins where a "young looking" Tigranes is featured but not assigned to any mint.

Based on numismatic data and obverse style, it was concluded that there was more than one mint operating in or within the vicinity of Damascus. And copper coins with comet star were issued either in a satellite or auxiliary mint of Damascus, under the influence of Damascus mint masters.

A new copper coin was discovered in the author's collection which sheds more light on this subject.

1. Drachm. "King Tigranes" inscription, comet on tiara.
 Obv.: Bust of Tigranes draped r. as before, but a line upward from the five o'clock ray of the eight-pointed star gives the appearance of a comet on the tiara. The portrait of the king is much less refined than the ones seen on the 'comet' tetradrachm. Border of dots.
 Rev.: Tyche of Antioch seated r. as before. Legend to r. downward ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ; to l. downward ΤΙΓΓΑΝΟΥ. In r. field above the arm the letter Ω. The whole within laurel wreath.
 Data: AR 21 mm, 3.39 g., 12h (CAA 49,² ACV 39,³ SB 1114,⁴ EB 855⁵) Ex NK

2. Nike. Four chalci.
 Obv.: Same as No. 1. Border of dots.
 Rev.: Nike advancing l. with outstretched r. hand holding a wreath and l. hand extending downward. Legend similar to the preceding. Below Nike the letters ΔΗΜΟ.
 Data: Æ 20 mm, 6.55 g., 12h (similar to CAA 114, ACV 78) YN

¹ Y. T. Nercessian, "Tigranes the Great of Armenia and the Mint of Damascus," *Armenian Numismatic Studies* (Los Angeles, 2000), pp. 95-109, reprinted from *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. XXII (March 1996), No. 1, pp. 3-13.

² Paul Z. Bedoukian, "Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia [CAA] (London, 1978), p. 55, No. 49, pl. 4.

³ Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Their Values* [ACV] (Los Angeles, 1995), p. 60, No. 39, pl. 4.

⁴ S. Boutin, *Collection N. K.: Monnaies des empires de Byzance, de Nicee — ... — Monnaies de l'Arménie Artaxiate et de l'Arménie Cilicienne*, (Wetteren, Belgium, 1983), p. 156, No. 1114.

⁵ E. Bourgey, *Numismatique collection N. K.* (Paris, 1992), p. 91, No. 855.

Compare the obverses of coins 1 and 2. Both coins share the same obverse die and they are the work of the same die-engraver. To convince some skeptics, the border of dots of both coins were counted. Behind the tiara, both coins have 10 dots; in front of the tiara and from the tip of the nose, both silver and copper coins have 12 points. Even to a novice, without counting the dots, both portraits look identical. The first is a silver drachm, once in the collection of Nadia Kapamadjian (whereabouts remains unknown) and in better state of preservation; the second is a copper of four chalci with Nike reverse and is worn more than the silver. These two coins prove that silver and copper coins having a comet star were most likely struck in the same mint and their dies were engraved in the same workshop by the same master die-engraver.

Tigranes the Great or Tigranes the Younger?

Tigranes the Great ruled a vast empire at the zenith of his power. In Armenia proper, he was called "King of Kings Tigranes," with the title that he won from the Parthians on the battlefield. Tigranes the Great was 45 years old when he ascended the throne of the Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia. He died at a ripe old age of 85. His coins struck in Armenia proper show him much closer to his age. In Seleucia, where he was "invited" to rule, he was "King Tigranes." His coins struck in Seleucid mints (best known among them were Antioch and Damascus) were executed according to their established centuries-old tradition. Simply, Tigranes was deified and represented much younger than his age.

Tigranes the Great had placed Sophene under the jurisdiction of Tigranes the Younger. Also, Tigranes the Younger was married to the daughter of Phraates III (70-57 B.C.), the king of Parthia. When Pompey humbled Tigranes the Great, he placed on him a huge sum of war indemnity which came from the Treasury of Sophene,⁶ according to H. Manandian. Therefore, one could surmise that Sophene was one of the wealthiest districts of Armenia. If Tigranes the Younger had the authority to strike coin, he would have had ample opportunity to do so. It seems to be very unpractical for a traitor son to journey from Armenia to Damascus or a Seleucid mint in the same area and be capable of striking a series of coins. We have not discovered any kind of silver or copper coins from Tigranes the Younger. History tells us that Tigranes the Younger conspired against his father and helped Pompey. But in B.C. 66, Pompey imprisoned Tigranes the Younger and his family, took them to Rome as war trophy to be part of his victory celebration.⁷

Coins catalogued above and in the author's paper relating to the mint of Damascus⁸ make it evident that a series of copper coins assumed to belong to Tigranes the Younger are none other than silver and copper coin variants of Tigranes the Great. These coins definitely were struck in a distant mint in Seleucia, and most likely in a satellite mint of Damascus, under the jurisdiction of Damascus mint masters, remaining faithful to Greek tradition of portrait engraving, where Tigranes the Great was presented as a very young king.

⁶ H. Manandian, *A Critical Survey of the History of the Armenian People*, Vol. I, p. 236 (in Armenian); and *Collected Works*, Vol. I (Erevan, 1977), p. 234 (in Armenian).

⁷ *History of the Armenian People*, Vol. I (Yerevan, 1971), pp. 598-599.

⁸ See above, note 1, and below, note 10.

Conclusion

The subject copper coin with Nike reverse (No. 2) shares the same obverse die with a comet silver drachm (No. 1). This demonstrates that the obverses of comet silver drachm and coppers coins with comet star were engraved by the same Seleucid master die-engraver.

A recently surfaced copper coin discussed in noted paper⁹ portrays Tigranes with boyish features and on the reverse displays the Tyche of Damascus standing. This specimen links all copper and silver coins of Tigranes with younger portrait and "King Tigranes" legend to the "Satellite Mint of Damascus" under the jurisdiction of Damascus mint masters. Without doubt, all coins with boyish portrait can be assigned not to Tigranes the Younger but to Tigranes II the Great who ruled Damascus, definitely from 72 to 69 B.C. as they are inscribed on his Damascene silver tetradrachms.¹⁰

Based on various reasons, often numismatists have tried to assign coins to Tigranes the Younger. For example Fr. Clement Sibilian was overjoyed when he acquired a copper coin of a bearded Tigranes.¹¹ In order to share his happiness, he wrote in a letter addressed to Fr. Simon Antonian, Vienna, "It seems to me that it is the coin of Tigranes the Younger."¹² If one examines the portraits of the kings of the Artaxiad dynasty of Armenia, he will discover that only Tigranes IV (8-5 B.C.) had a heavy beard. Other numismatists (Foss,¹³ Tekin¹⁴) also have tried to assign coins to Tigranes the Younger. The reality is that we have not received any coin from Tigranes the Younger.

Based on numismatic data and the obverse style of coins it can be concluded that coins struck according to the Seleucid tradition gave Tigranes the Great a much youthful appearance, a portrait which has been confused with a Tigranes the Younger.

ԿՐՏՍԵՐ ՏԻ ԳՐԱՆԻ ԴՐԱՄՆԵՐՈՒՆ ԱՌԵՂՏՈՒԱԾԸ

Վերջերս օտար զրամագէտներ փորձած են ուսումնասիրել հայկական զրամները: Իրեն եզրակացուցին իրենց հետազոտութեանց, առաջ կը քշեն «Կրտսեր» Տիգրանի մը զրամական համակարգը:

⁹ See above, note 1.

¹⁰ Y. T. Nercessian, "Silver Coins of Tigranes II of Armenian," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Series I, Vol. XXVI (December 2000), Nos. 3-4, pp. 43-108, pls. 1-10.

¹¹ For the picture of this coin see Y. T. Nercessian, ACV, pl. 12, No. 162. P. Z. Bedoukian, "A Classification of the Coins of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia," *American Numismatic Society Museum Notes*, Vol. XIV (1968), pp. 41-66, pl. IX-XI; also in *Selected Numismatic Studies* (Los Angeles, 1981), pp. 111-141, No. 32.

¹² Fr. Gregory Manian, "The Sibilian Letters; Some Excerpts from the Letters of Fr. Clement Sibilian, Addressed to Fr. Simon Antonian," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Series I, Vol. IV (1978), pp. 19-28 (in Armenian with some letters in English translation), 1872 October 13/25 Constantinople.

¹³ C. Foss, "The Coinage of Tigranes the Great," *Numismatic Chronicle*, Vol. 146 (1986), pp. 20-66; "Tigranes the Younger," *SAN*, Vol. XVI (May 1986), No. 4, pp. 64-66; also in *Journal of Armenian Studies*, Vol. V (Winter/Spring 1990-91), pp. 73-78.

¹⁴ O. Tekin, "The Coins from Üçtepe with a Problematic Emission of Tigranes the Younger," *Epigraphica Anatolica*, Vol. 20 (1992), pp. 43-54.

Մեզի համար գործնականութեան սահմաններէն դուրս կ'երևի, թէ դաւաճան որդի մը, ճամբորդէ Հայաստանէն դէպի Դամասկոս կամ նոյն շրջակայքը, ու հոն կարողանայ թողարկել նման երկար դրամաշարք մը: Մոփքը Հայաստանի ամենէն հարուստ շրջաններէն մէկն էր: Պոմպոսին հետ հաշտութեան պայմանները յարգելու պարագային, ուսգմատուգանքը զանձուեցաւ Մոփքի փողերանոցէն: Նախապէս Տիգրան Մեծ դրած էր Մոփքը Կրտսեր Տիգրանի անօրինութեան ներքեւ: Նաև պէտք չէ մոռնալ, որ Կրտսեր Տիգրան պարթև Հրահատ Գ. Թազաուորին փեսան էր: Ուրեմն Կրտսեր Տիգրան կրնար առիթը գտնել ոչ միայն պղնձեայ, այլ նաև արծաթեայ դրամ կտրելու: Իբրև արդիւնք մեր քննութեան, ցարկ Կրտսեր Տիգրանէն արծաթեայ ու պղնձեայ դրամ չէ յայտնաբերուած: Պատմութիւնը մեզի կը տեղեկացնէ, թէ Կրտսեր Տիգրան, դաւաճանութեամբ արկեցեցաւ Պոմպոսին: Սակայն 86 Ն.Ք. Թուականին Կրտսեր Տիգրանն ու իր ընտանիքը ձերբակալուեցան Պոմպոսին կողմէ ու գերի տարուեցան Հռոմ, հոն մաս կազմելու համար իր յաղթանակի հանդէսին:

Վերև ցուցակազրուած դրամները ակնյայտ կ'ընեն, թէ «Կրտսեր» Տիգրանին ենթադրուած դրամները ուրիշ բան չեն եթէ ոչ Տիգրան Մեծի դրամական համակարգին պատկանող այլ արծաթեայ ու պղնձեայ դրամներու տարբերակներ: Այս դրամները վտահարաբ թողարկուած են հեռուոր Սելևկիոյ դրամահատարանի մը մէջ, «Դամասկոսի արքանեակ դրամահատարան» մը, հաստարիմ մնալով սելևկեան աւանդական և յունական տիրապետող դիմանկարային արուեստին, ուր Տիգրան Մեծը աստուածացնելով զինք ներկայացուցած են որպէս հաւերժական ու երիտասարդ արքայ մը, որ կը շփոթուի Կրտսեր Տիգրանի մը հետ:

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

32 NERCESSIAN, Y. T. Tigran II Mets ew Damascusi dramahataranê - [Tigranes II the Great of Armenia and the Mint of Damascus] - Տիգրան Բ. Մեծ և Դամասկոսի դրամահատարանը, գրեց՝ Եղիա Ներսէսեան. *Haigazian Armenological Review*, Vol. XIX (1999), pp. 155-170, 2 pls. In Armenian with English summary.

An historical background of this period is given and the coins of Tigranes II the Great (95-56 B.C.) of Armenia, ascribed to the mint of Damascus, are reviewed. Only the Damascene tetradrachms of Tigranes are dated. His bronze coins struck in Damascus display Tyche seated and standing, and Nike walking. Recently a new type of bronze coin surfaced with Damascus Tyche standing but the obverse portrays a “young-looking” Tigranes. This coin provides a missing link to other coins where the obverses, similar to a newly discovered bronze coin, feature a “young-looking” Tigranes wearing an Armenian tiara adorned with a comet star; the reverses, Tyche, Nike, palm-branch, cypress tree, tripod, and horse.

Author

Տրուած է պատմական ուրուագիծ մը այս շրջանի մասին և քննուած է Տիգրան Մեծի Դամասկոսի դրամահատարանին յատկացուած դրամները: Միայն իր դամասկոսեան շրեքդրամեանները թուահարուած են: Իր Դամասկոս կոխուած բրոնզէ դրամներուն վրայ պատկերուած են Բախտը՝ նստած ու կանգնած և քաղիք Յաղթանակը: Վերջերս յայտնաբերուեցաւ Դամասկոսի կաշքած Բախտով նոր տեսակ բրոնզէ դրամ մը, բայց երեսին պատկերուած է «երիտասարդի դիմանկարով» Տիգրանը, որ հագած է հայկական խոյր մը, զարդարուած՝ ասուպով մը: Կռակները՝ Բախտ, Յաղթանակ, արմաւենիի ճիւղ, նոճիի ծառ, եռոտանի և ձի:

Հեղինակը

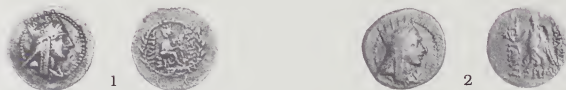
33 NOYAN TAPAN. Hin 500 dramnots'nerê kegtsuats? [Old 500 Dram Banknotes Counterfeited?] - Հին 500 դրամնոցները կեղծուած. *Asbarez*, Vol. 93 (6 April 2001), No. 11451, p. 4. In Armenian.

News have spread in Yerevan on the counterfeiting of old 500 dram banknotes. YTN
ԵՆՆ

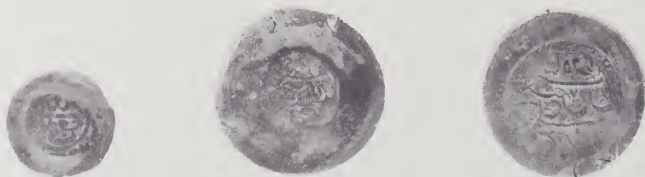
Երևանի մէջ լուրեր տարածուած են հին 500 դրամնոցերու կեղծման մասին:



Ruben Vardanayan. A Dated Copper Coin of Artaxias II



Y. T. Nercessian. The Myth of Tigranes the Younger Coins



Armine Zohrabian. Safavid Coinage Dies Discovered in Armenia
 Արմինէ Զօհրաբեան. Սեֆեհան դրամահատման կնիքներ յայտնաբերուած Հայաստանից

ՍԵՖԵԱՆ ԴՐԱՄԱՀԱՏՄԱՆ ԿՆԻՔՆԵՐ ՅԱՅՏՆԱԲԵՐՈՒԱԾ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻՑ

Տախտակ 3

ԱՐՄԻՆԷ ԶՕՀՐԱԲԵԱՆ

Դրամահատման կնիքները դրամագիտական յուշարձանների մէջ առանկ հաղոսողէպ հանդիսող խումբն է: Դա պլամանաւորուած է նրանով, որ բոլոր ժամանակներում դրամահատութիւնը իրատէն վերահսկուած էր պետութեան կողմից: Կնիքները, որոշակի մաշուածութիւն ձեռք բերելուց յետոյ, անմիջապէս ոչնչացուած էին՝ յետագայում դրամանենգութիւնից խուսափելու, ինչպէս նաև համապետական դրամի փշացում թոյլ չտալու համար:

Այդ առումով չափազանց հետաքրքիր և կարևոր է Հայաստանի Պատմութեան Պետական Թանգարանի կողմից 18-րդ դարի Սեֆեան ժամանակաշրջանի դրամահատման կնիքներին ձեռքբերումը: Հետաքրքիր է ոչ միայն կնիքների յայտնաբերման փաստը, այլ նաև դրանց գտնուելու ճանգամանքը:

1998 թ. Լոուռ մարզի Գիւլագարակ գիւղի հին գերեզմանատան տարածքում յայտնաբերուեցին հինգ կնիք (երկու զոյգ երկու կողմերի և մէկ զիմերեսի): Դրանք թագնուած էին խաչ-քարի տակ: Կնիքները վերաբերում են տարբեր դրամահատարանների (Երևան, Թաւրիզ, Ուսւլէյլ) և արժէնիշներին (աբբասի, մուհամեդի) թողարկումներ: Կնիքները պահպանուածութեան աստիճանը մեզ թոյլ է տալիս պնդելու, որ դրանք երկար օգտագործուել են: Հետաքրքիր է նաև դրանց յայտնաբերումը վերոյիշեալ դրամահատարաններից այդքան հեռու:

Յաւօք, Թանգարանի լիինակի եղաւ ձեռք բերել միայն երեք կնիք (Դ 19885, 19886): մի զոյգ կնիքները¹ (ներքևի և վերևի) Երևանի դրամահատարանին են: Դրանք Սեֆեան Շահ Հուսէյն Ա-ի «աբբասի» արծաթ արժէնիշի Հ. 1127 թ. (1715 թ.) համապետական դրամների կնիքներ են: Ներքևի կնիքը կոնստանտինէ (բարձր. 43 մմ, տրամագիծը՝ 26 մմ): Այն սովորաբար ամրակայուն էր փայտէ կաղապարի մէջ, որով պլամանաւորուած է նրա կոնստանտինէ վերոյիշեալը:

Վերևի կնիքը սկաւառակաձև է (բարձր. 20 մմ, տրամագիծը՝ 40 մմ): Այն դրուում էր վերևից և մուրճի հարուածով կատարուում դրամի հատում:

Կնիքների վրայ պահպանուել են գրութիւնները՝ դիմերես կենտրոնում՝

لا اله الا الله
محمد رسول الله
على ولي الله

«Ձկալ Աստուած Ալլահից բացի, Մուհամեդն Ալլահի Մարգարէն է, Ալին Ալլահի Ընկերն է»: Շրջանաձև գրութեամբ շիիզմի տասներկու իմամների անունները՝

على محمد حسن على حسين جعفر
موسى على محمد على حسين محمد

«Ալի, Մուհամեդ, Հասան, Ալի, Հուսէյն, Ջաֆար, Մուսա, Ալի, Մուհամեդ, Ալի, Հուսէյն, Մուհամեդ»: Դրածերես՝

«Սրբութեան արքայի ստրուկ Հուսէյն: Կտրուած Երևանում 1127»:

بند شاه وليت حسين
ضرب ايروان 1167

Երրորդը ներքևի կնիքն է, կոնստանտինէ վերջաւորութեամբ (բարձր. 25 մմ, տրամագիծը՝ 25 մմ): Այն դրամի դիմերեսի կնիքն է հետևեալ գրութեամբ:

لا اله الا الله
على ولي الله

«Ձկալ Աստուած Ալլահից բացի, Ալին Նրա Ընկերն է»: Դրամի այս տիպը փոքր արժէնիշի՝ մուհամեդի, միաւորն է: Այս դրամները թողարկուում էին Ուսւլէյլցում, և դարձներեսին նշուում էր միայն քաղաքի անունը:

¹ Օգտուելով առիթից շնորհակալութիւն ենք յայտնում Երևանի ոսկերչական գործարարի տնօրէն Է. Գրիգորեանին, ում միջոցով թանգարանը ձեռք բերեց այդ արժէքաւոր նմուշները:

կնիքների միւս զոյգը (դիմերես-դարձերես), գտնուած նոյն վայրում, ցաօք, Թանգարանը չկարողացաւ ձեռք բերել, սակայն մեզ մօտ պահպանուել են դրանք տուեանլերը: Դրանք բոլոր տուեանլերով համապատասխանում են Երևանի դրամահատարանի կնիքներին, միայն վերաբերում են Թաւրիզի դրամահատարանին:

Բոլոր կնիքները պատրաստուած են պողպատից: Դրամների պատրաստումը, ինչպէս նաև դրամի թողարկումը հսկում էր պետական պաշտօնեաների կողմից:

Կնիքների պատրաստումը, նայած գրութիւնների բարդութիւնից, տևում էր մի քանի Ժամից մինչև մէկ օր:

Յայտնաբերուած կնիքները արժէքաւոր դրամագիտական նիւթ են հանդիսանում, քանի որ դրանք Երևանի դրամահատարանի մեզ յայտնի միակ օրինակներն են:

Երևանի դրամահատարանը գործել է Սեֆեան Տիրապետութեան ողջ ընթացքում: Սկսած 17-րդ դ. Երևանը դառնում է Երևան-Չմուռնիի մայրուղու կարևորագոյն հանգուցակէտերից մէկը²: Այն ձեռք է բերում բացառիկ առևտրա-տնտեսական նշանակութիւն: Դրամահատարանից բացի, այնտեղ էր գտւում Խանութեան կենտրոնական մաքսատունը (ուահարխանա): Դրամահատարանը 1658 թ. անընդմէջ գտնուել է հայ մեծահարուստ խոջաների ձեռքում: Վաձկալման իրաւունքը տրւում էր Խանի կողմից, իսկ դրամների հատումից ստացած եկամտւոր ամենալուսալին էր վերջինիս համար: Փողերանոցը կոչւում էր զառաբխանա, իսկ վարձակալողը՝ զառաբաչի:

Չաքարիա Ազուլեցին հաղորդում է նաև, որ Երևանի զառաբաչի են եղել իր եղբայրները, և նշում է, թէ որքան շահաւէտ պաշտօն է դա, յատկապէս, որ նրանց ձեռքում էր մաքսատունը: «Համ զառաֆխանեն, համ ըրահատարխանեն սորայ ձեռացն էր, շատ-շատ շահալիտ էր վաճառականի, որ առուտրի»³:

SAFAVID COINAGE DIES DISCOVERED IN ARMENIA

[Summary]

Among numismatic monuments, the discovery of historical coinage dies is a rare event, for a good reason; once the dies wore out they were destroyed for security reasons.

The circumstances of the discovery and subsequent acquisition of these eighteenth century Safavid dies by the State History Museum of Armenia are quite curious. In 1998 in an ancient cemetery at Gulagarak village, in the District of Lori, Armenia, five dies (two obverse/reverse and a lone obverse) were discovered hidden under a *khachkar* (carved cross stone). The dies are of the 'abbasi and muhammadi denominations from the mints of Erivan, Tabriz, Huwayz.

Unfortunately, the Museum was able to acquire only three of the dies, including a pair from the Erivan mint. The Erivan mint dies of Safavid Shah Husayn I (A.H. 1105-1135) were meant for striking A.H. 1127 dated silver coins of the 'abbasi denomination with standard religious inscriptions. The lower die (obverse) is conical (height 43 mm, diam. 26 mm) and would have been placed in a wooden fixture. The upper die (reverse) is circular (height 20 mm, diam. 40 mm). Both dies are manufactured of steel. The third is a lower die (obverse) and conical shaped (height 25 mm, diam. 25 mm). The third die is a lower die (obverse) for striking muhammadi and is conical shaped.

Armine Zohrabian

² Վ. Փափրագեան, Հայաստանի առևտրական ուղիները միջագային առևտրի ոլորտում XVI-XVII դդ. (Երևան, 1990), էջ 118.

³ Չաքարիա Ազուլեցի, Չաֆարիա Ազուլեցու օրագրութունը (Երևան, 1938), էջ 81.

VINTAGE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN PINS

PLATE 4

L. A. SARYAN, Ph.D.

Pins, sometimes termed pinbacks, lapel pins, buttons, or badges, are considered ex-nummia and are collected by numismatists even though they do not serve a monetary function. They have been popular in the United States and many other countries since the late nineteenth century. The variety of themes and types of pins that have been issued is apparently endless.¹

One of the earliest and still a very popular method of pin manufacture uses printed paper with a glossy finish or a thin covering of transparent plastic material called celluloid (later acetate was used), which is then pressed over a metal button (often made of iron or steel) and sealed by crimping the edge. This type, sometimes termed a celluloid pinback, was patented around 1893 by the Whitehead and Hoag Company of Newark, New Jersey,² and first manufactured around 1896. Celluloids have a glossy appearance and often are attractively printed in several colors. A detachable sharp pin (typically made of iron or steel) is inserted into the rear of the button and retained in place by spring tension. This enables pin to be attached securely to a shirt, jacket, or hat. In the United States, buttons of this type were very popular between 1896 and 1920. Around 1920, mass-produced pins, made especially for advertising and political campaigns, began to be manufactured using a lithographic process. These were created by printing a design in colored ink directly onto a thin sheet of circular tin metal that was then shaped into a button. Pins were also made of fiberboard, plastic, metal, and other materials. Related to these are more elegant pieces resembling items of jewelry, made of copper or precious metal to which enamel is sometimes applied to add color. Some of these have a soldered metal stud designed for insertion into the lapel buttonhole of a suit jacket, while others have integral hinged latching pins or screw posts with locking nuts.

It is often possible to identify the manufacturer of earlier pins. Older celluloid pinbacks frequently have a circular paper label inserted into the back, giving the name and address of the manufacturer and sometimes displaying a small union bug. Occasionally a stamp or union insignia is embossed directly onto the metal, or (more rarely) information may be printed on the edge. This information can help to date the pin, establish its authenticity, and identify the locality where the pin was made, distributed, and worn. This is useful since contemporary information about pin manufacture is rarely available.

The number of pins of various types with Armenian themes that have been produced over the years numbers in the thousands. Metallic pins (called "znachki" in Russian)

¹ Ted Hake, *The Button Book: An Illustrated Price Guide to 5000 Pinback Buttons Issued from 1896-1972 including Listings of Buttons Issued as Sets* (New York: Dafran House Publishers Inc., 1972), pp. 4-7, provides a list of various themes of 20th century pinbacks.

² Hake, pp. 10-11.

were extremely popular collectibles throughout the Soviet Union and it can be surmised that well over one thousand different types and varieties reflecting Armenian commemorative themes were issued and distributed in Soviet Armenia as souvenirs. Glossy pinbacks were manufactured for Armenian churches and community organizations in the United States beginning as early as 1918 and continue to be made in large numbers today. Others (such as some relief and political campaign pins) were issued by non-Armenian agencies.

Many Armenians originating from villages and towns in Ottoman Turkey settled in America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the aftermath of the annihilation of the Armenian community in Turkey in 1915, thousands of new immigrants fled to these shores. Relief drives for the victims of this genocide were established by non-Armenian and Armenian charitable groups, and special fund appeals were organized to aid the newly-established Republic of Armenia (1918-1920) and the Armenian Soviet state (after 1920). Famous Armenians toured Armenian settlements in the USA for patriotic purposes and to raise money for worthy projects. Churches and community organizations were founded in the major and many smaller communities in New England, the mid-Atlantic states, the Midwest, and California. Political parties, each with a different vision of the Armenian future, were active in the life of local communities and regularly sponsored public programs and events. All of these groups distributed pins as souvenirs to promote their causes.

These pins document an interesting aspect of the life of the Armenian-American community. A wide variety of subject themes can be discerned: relief efforts after the 1915 genocide, the Armenian flag, Armenian governments, religious pins (especially those commemorating Easter which were distributed at churches on Easter Sunday), and pins of charitable societies and political organizations including service awards, portraits of important persons, etc. The depiction of the Armenian flag on pins was quite popular, just as contemporary American pinbacks depicted Old Glory.³ Altogether, about 50 different types and varieties of vintage Armenian pins have been identified, enough to justify the compilation of this preliminary catalogue.

There is very little published literature available on Armenian theme pins of any type. The catalogue below lists the oldest and rarest such pins believed to have been issued in the USA, based on the holdings in three collections.⁴ The list was arbitrarily terminated at the year 1956 (the second Dwight Eisenhower presidential campaign). The term "vintage" as used here denotes any pin that is at least 50 years old. Most of the examples listed are celluloid pinbacks; others are lithographed, enameled, or designed to be worn on a suit lapel. Pins in the form of orders, decorations, or medals, such as those issued to individuals for meritorious military or civilian service, constitute a separate category and are not included here. Obviously, this is a preliminary listing and many

³ Hake, p. 199.

⁴ Although I have been saving Armenian pins for more than 35 years, most of the examples catalogued here eluded me until quite recently. In early 2000, I acquired most of a small collection of pins offered by Florida dealer Cindy Brantman, who indicated that these originated from an estate formed several decades ago in Massachusetts (indicated M). Pins from the author's collection are denoted LS. I am grateful to collector-researcher Manuel Panossian (MP) for sharing information about several important pins in his personal collection, and to Vatsche Barsoumian (VB) who provided information on pins that he has obtained from internet auction sales.

more varieties remain to be discovered and catalogued. A more comprehensive listing is contemplated if cooperation is received from other collectors.

The classification adopted here is based upon the principle thematic content of a pin and its probable chronology. Each pin is assigned to one of five thematic categories (Relief, Church, Organizational, Flag, and Political), and within each category examples are listed according to their approximate date of issue. Where no date appears on the pin, the assigned date represents the author's opinion based on fabric, style, or thematic context. It will be perceived that this classification scheme is experimental and somewhat arbitrary. For instance, pins illustrating flags are found in the relief and organization categories as well as the flag category, and pins illustrating famous Armenians may be assigned to whichever category seems most appropriate. Examples illustrated on the accompanying plate are from the author's collection.

A few notes for collectors should be added. Almost without exception, the pins listed below are quite rare. Few seem to have been manufactured and fewer still have been preserved to the present. Generally, no more than one to three examples of each type are known to the author. These pins are relatively fragile; damage and deterioration over the years is common. The metallic portion, often composed of iron, may over time acquire rust spots that can bleed through the paper and leave a visible stain on the face of the pin. Celluloid coverings are subject to cracking, crazing, or peeling. Lithographed pins must be protected from scratches that can remove the paint from the design. Careful preservation and storage of pins is necessary to protect them from fading, scratches, corrosion, rust stains, and degradation of the plastic coating. Cardboard or inert plastic 2x2 holders appear to provide adequate protection for these collectibles.

CATALOGUE

Armenian Relief Pins

Pins to promote relief fund-raising for Armenians left destitute in the aftermath of the 1915 genocide in Turkey were issued by non-Armenian humanitarian organizations and probably Armenian ones as well. In the USA, massive relief campaigns were organized and coordinated by the Near East Relief.⁵ Pins reflecting this effort are listed below.

REL 1.* **Armenian Relief** (undated, possibly 1896 but probably 1915-1918). Red, blue, and green on white field. Mother Armenia seated between two flags, the US Stars and Stripes on the left, and a red, white, and green horizontally striped flag on the right. Legend reads ARMENIAN RELIEF. Label in back indicates that "A. R. Lopez & Bro., 3 School St., Boston, Mass" manufactured the pin. 25 mm, 1.88 grams (LS-M); 1.86 grams, 2.09 grams (MP). [Red, green, and white were proposed as colors for the Armenian flag in the late nineteenth century under the influence of Father Ghevont Alishan, a Mekhitarist monk from Venice. The pin was probably distributed prior to August 1918, when the red, blue, and orange tricolor was adopted as Armenia's official flag. It is considered possible that this example was issued as early as 1896.]

⁵ James Barton, *Story of Near East Relief (1915-1930): An Interpretation* (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1930).

REL 2.* Near East Relief (undated, ca. 1915-1919). Red, white, and blue. Star with rays, legend AMERICAN COMMITTEE/SAVE A/LIFE/RELIEF IN NEAR EAST. Printing on back indicates the pin was made by "THE HOLLIS PRESS INC., NEW YORK, PATENTS APPLIED FOR." 19 mm, 0.41 gram, fiberboard with an integral pin (LS). [This pin does not specifically mention Armenia, but was issued by Near East Relief, headquartered in New York City, to encourage and promote the collection of relief funds for Armenians and others left destitute in Ottoman Turkey during World War I.⁶]

REL 3.* Milwaukee County Starving Armenians (undated, ca. 1915-1920). Blue-green and red-orange with white lettering. Legend reading FOR THE STARVING ARMENIANS, JEWS AND POLES/I/HAVE-HAVE/YOU?/MILWAUKEE COUNTY. Illegible stamp on metal inside the back. 22 mm, 1.49 grams (LS).⁷

REL 4.* Armenian War Relief (undated, ca. 1915-1920). Black legend on white field. ARMENIAN/WAR/RELIEF. 22 mm, 1.60 grams (LS-M).

REL 5. Mother Armenia (undated, ca. 1915-1920). Multicolor (red, blue, and yellow) depiction of a seated, dejected woman and child, blue legend ARMENIA in exercise. Illegible signature under drawing. 32 mm, 3.30 grams (MP). [The date is conjecture based on style. The artwork on this pin was created by Louis Raemaekers; the same work is also reproduced on a postcard appealing for donations to the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund in London, suggesting that this pin may have been issued in England.]

REL 6.* Armenian Relief (undated, ca. 1915-1920). Blue legend lithographed on white field: SAVE A LIFE/ARMENIAN RELIEF. Legend in back indicates that the pin was "MADE BY. AMERICAN ART WORKS, COSHOCTON, OHIO." 17.5 mm, 0.89 gram (LS). 0.94 gram (MP).

REL 7.* Armenian Week (undated, ca. 1915-1920). Yellow life preserver on orange field, legend in black reading ARMENIAN WEEK/LIFE SAVING. Paper label in back indicates that the pin was manufactured by "The IRWIN-HODSON COMPANY, Portland, Oregon" which made "Celluloid Buttons, Novelties." A union bug inscribed I.P.E.U. encased in a diamond and rectangle also appears on the label. 25 mm, 2.05 grams (LS).

REL 8.* Armenian Relief Campaign Worker (undated, ca. 1915-1920). Red lettering on ivory field, reading ARMENIAN/RELIEF/CAMPAIGN/WORKER. Metal-covered back style with latching pin. 44 mm, 7.04 grams (LS, obtained from a dealer in North Carolina, 2/01).

REL 9.* Near East Relief (undated, ca. 1918-1922). White lettering on red, blue, and orange field, reading HUNGER KNOWS/*N.E.R./NO ARMISTICE. Paper label in back indicates that the pin was manufactured by "LUCKE BADGE & BUTTON CO., BALTIMORE, MD.," a maker of "BADGES, BUTTONS & NOVELTIES." A horseshoe, a shamrock, and a union bug also appear on the label. 22 mm, 1.55 grams (LS, obtained from a dealer in California, 4/01). [This interesting pin does not mention Armenia

⁶ Barton, pp. 14, 431. This pin was probably issued prior to 1919, when the American Committee for Relief in the Near East was officially renamed Near East Relief.

⁷ L. A. Saryan, "Milwaukee County Armenian Relief Pin," *Milwaukee Numismatic News* (Jan 2000), p. 5. I would like to thank numismatist Fred Borgmann for bringing this pin to my attention.

specifically, but does utilize the three colors of the Armenian flag in correct order! Reference to the Armistice indicates that the pin was issued after the conclusion of hostilities in 1918.]

Armenian Church and Religious Pins

Included in this category are annual pins distributed at Easter, as well as pins commemorating churches, religious organizations, and members of the clergy.

CHU 1. Khrimian Hayrig (undated, ca. 1920). Black on white, frontal portrait of Khrimian with full beard (without headgear). No legend. Label in back indicates pin was made by CAMMALL BADGE CO., 299 Washington St., Boston, Mass. and shows a union bug with the number 32 beneath. 22 mm, ca. 1.5 grams (VB-M) [Khrimian Hayrig, perhaps the most prominent and respected leader of the Armenian Church in the late nineteenth century, was born in 1820 and died in 1907; it is considered possible that this undated pin was issued to commemorate the centenary of his birth.]

CHU 2.* Armenian Church of Boston (1923). Gray on off white, church building with tall pointed steeple, legend ARMENIAN NATIONAL CHURCH/BOSTON/1923. Label in back indicates pin was made by "LOPEZ Badge & Novelty Co., 3 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON, MASS." and shows a union bug. 25 mm, 2.10 grams (LS-M). [Holy Trinity Church, the first Armenian church in Boston, was located at 397-401 Shawmut Avenue. It was purchased on December 21, 1921 at a cost of \$27,000, and after necessary renovations was consecrated by Archbishop Tirayr Ter-Hovhanesian on November 11, 1923. The church served the community until 1961, when a new structure was erected in Cambridge, Massachusetts.⁸ This pin was probably distributed at the consecration in 1923.]

CHU 3.* Armenian Evangelical Union (undated, ca. 1920-1930). Dark blue on ivory field, English legend reading Armenian Evangelical Union of America. Metal-covered back style with a latching pin. Oval-shaped pin, 36 mm x 27 mm, 3.61 grams (LS-M). [The Armenian Evangelical Union was an assembly of Armenian protestant congregations. The provenance and style of this pin suggests a date in the twenties.]

CHU 4.* Easter (1928). Cross and Armenian legend in black on white field. Legend below reads ՔՍ. ՅԱՐԵԱՒ / Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ/1928. Label in back indicates that the pin was made by "LOPEZ Badge & Novelty Co., 3 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON, MASS." and shows a union bug. 25 mm, 2.25 grams (LS-M).

CHU 5.* Patriarch Yeghishe Jubilee (1929). Black on white portrait of the Armenian Patriarch Yeghishe Tourian in ecclesiastical cowl, Armenian legend ՅԻՎԱՄԵԱՅ ՅՈՒԲԵԼԻԱՆ ՔԱԼԱՆԱՑՈՒԹԵԱՆ/ԵՂԻՇԷ Ս. ՊԱՏՐԻԱՐԳ 1879-1929. 32 mm, 2.99 grams (LS-M). [This pin commemorates the 50th anniversary of the clerical ordination of Yeghishe Tourian, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem.]

CHU 6.* Easter (1930). Dark blue bust of Jesus Christ on white field, dark blue Armenian legend ՔՍ. ՅԱՐԵԱՒ /1930/ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ. Label in back indicates that the pin was made by "LOPEZ, 3 School St., Boston" and shows a union bug. 25 mm, 2.03 grams (LS-M).

⁸ *Tenth Anniversary (1961-1971) Souvenir Book of the Consecration of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston*. No publication date, location, or pagination is provided; the booklet was evidently printed in 1971 and distributed at the tenth anniversary banquet held on Sept. 26, 1971.

CHU 7. Archbishop Ghevond Tourian (ca. 1934). Black and white portrait of the archbishop wearing a black pointed cowl. Armenian legend: 1879 ԱՌԱԶՆՈՐԴ ԴԵՒՈՆԴ ԱՐԲ, ԴՈՒՐԵԱՆ 1933. ՆԱՀԱՍԱԿՈՒԱՇ Ս, Խ, ԵԿԵՂ, ԴԵԿՏ, 24, 36 mm, 4.31 grams (LS-M). [Archbishop Tourian was martyred at Holy Cross Church in New York on December 24, 1933.]

CHU 8.* Easter (1935). Violet lily and legends on white field, Armenian legend ՔՍ. ՅԱՐԵԱՒ/1935/ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ. The back label indicates this pin was manufactured by "Universal Badge Co., School St., Boston, Mass." and shows the union bug. 22 mm, 1.50 grams (LS-M), 1.53 grams (MP).

CHU 9.* Easter (1936). Purple bust of Jesus Christ on white field, purple Armenian legend ՔՍ. ՅԱՐԵԱՒ/1936/ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ. Pink label in back indicates that this pin was made by "Universal Badge Co., 3 School St., Boston, Mass." and shows the union bug. 25 mm, 1.84 grams (LS-M).

CHU 10. Khoren I Catholicos of All Armenians (ca. 1938). Catholicos seated facing slightly right, wearing clerical attire and cowl with cross. Top portion of pontifical staff visible. Armenian legend reading ԽՈՐԷՆ Ա. ԿԱԹՈՂԻԿՈՍ ԱՄԵՆԱՅՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ/1932-1938. Label in back reads "M. Pudlin Co., Inc. 286 5th AVE. N.Y.C." and shows a printer's seal and the number 1. 31 mm (VB). [This pin marks the reign of His Holiness Catholicos Khoren I Mouradbekian, who was apparently murdered by Soviet secret police at Etchmiadzin in 1938.⁹]

CHU 11.* Easter (1941). Reddish brown bust of Jesus Christ on white field, reddish brown Armenian legend ՔՍ. ՅԱՐԵԱՒ/1941/ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ. Pink label in back indicates that "Pilgrim Badge and Specialty Co., 614 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Mass" made this pin. The depiction of Jesus Christ on this pin differs slightly from 1936 design. 25 mm, 1.80 grams (LS-M).

CHU 12. Easter (1945). Blue bust of Jesus Christ on white field, blue Armenian legend ՔՍ. ՅԱՐԵԱՒ/1945/ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ. Pin is latching style. No label but style of design and legends resembles 1941 pin above. 25 mm, 1.83 grams (LS-M).

CHU 13. Easter (1948). Violet bust of Jesus Christ on white field, violet Armenian legend ՔՍ. ՅԱՐԵԱՒ/1948/ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ. Design and legends resemble the 1941 pin above. 25 mm, 1.85 grams (MP).

CHU 14. Easter (1951). Purple bust of Jesus Christ on white field, purple Armenian legend ՔՍ. ՅԱՐԵԱՒ/1951/ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ. Design and legends resemble the 1941 pin above. 25 mm, 2.05 grams (MP).

CHU 15. Easter (1953). Purple bust of Jesus Christ on white field, purple Armenian legend ՔՍ. ՅԱՐԵԱՒ/1953/ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ. Design and legends resemble the 1941 pin above. 25 mm, 2.12 grams (MP).

CHU 16. Easter (undated, ca. 1950-1955). Purple head of Jesus Christ on white field, purple Armenian legend ՔՍ. ՅԱՐԵԱՒ/Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ. The style is similar but not identical

⁹ Mary K. Matossian, *The Impact of Soviet Policies in Armenia* (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1962), p. 161. Regarding the early career of Catholicos Khoren and his efforts to steer the Armenian Church through the Soviet storm, see Mabel E. Elliott, *Beginning Again at Ararat* (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1924), pp. 322-324.

to the above types dating from 1941 to 1953. 25 mm, 2.27 grams (MP). [Date of this pin is conjecture based on style.]

CHU 17. Kevork VI Catholicos of All Armenians (1954). Half-tone purple photo illustration of His Holiness Kevork VI, framed in black. Purple legend in Armenian ԳԼՈՐԳ Զ. ԿԱԹՈՂՈՍԿՈՍ ԱՄ. ՀԱՅՈՑ/1868-1954. 43 mm, 4.21g (LS). [This item marks the death of Catholicos Kevork VI which occurred in Armenia in 1954.]

Pins of Armenian Community and Political Organizations and Fund Drives

Included in this category are pins issued by several Armenian organizations. These include charitable and benevolent societies, political parties, and fraternal lodges, as well as pins promoting fund-raising for the Armenian government or projects within the Armenian-American community.

ORG 1.* Armenian National Union of America \$1 Million Campaign (1918). Red, green and dark blue on white, mountain with sun behind. Armenian legends ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ԿՈՇԸ/ ՀԱՅ ԱԶԳԱՅԻՆ ՄԻՈՒԹԻՒՆ-ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ/\$1,000,000 (on scroll)/1918/ ԿԱՏԱՐԸ ՊԱՐՏՔԵՐ. Label in back indicates that this pin was made by "THE WHITEHEAD & HOAG CO., BUTTONS, BADGES, NOVELTIES AND SIGNS, NEWARK, N. J." 18 mm, 1.21 grams (LS-M). [The \$1 million fund-raising campaign sponsored by the Armenian National Union of America was scheduled to take place during the months of April-June 1918.¹⁰]

ORG 2.* Republic of Armenia Army Fund (1920). Waving Armenian tricolor (red, blue, and orange horizontal stripes) flag on white field with blue border, circular legend reading ՆՈՒԵՐ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ԲԱՆԱԿԻՆ 1920. Label in back indicates that this pin was manufactured by "PILGRIM SPECIALTY CO., BUTTONS, BADGES, ADVERTISING SPECIALTIES, MALDEN (?), MASS." A stamp with the company name and location appears on the edge. 16 mm, 0.97 grams (LS-M). [General Andranik Ozanian arrived in the USA in November of 1919, with the principal aim of raising funds for the Armenian Army. This pin was possibly issued in conjunction with this campaign.]

ORG 3.* General Antranik (ca. 1920-1922). Black and white bust of Armenian General Antranik Ozanian in military uniform with shoulder epaulets, military cross at neck, and round lamb's wool cap. English legend below reads GEN. ANTRANIK. Manufactured by "THE WHITEHEAD & HOAG CO., BUTTONS, BADGES, NOVELTIES AND SIGNS, NEWARK, N.J." 21 mm, 1.53 grams (LS-M). [This pin was probably issued in conjunction with General Antranik's 1920 tour of the United States to raise funds for the Armenian Army.]

ORG 4. Armenian General Benevolent Union (ca. 1925). Shield-shaped decorative enameled metal pin showing two hands shaking above Mt. Ararat, Armenian legend ՀԲԸՄ above, dated 1906. Legend on back reads WHITEHEAD & HOAG, NEWARK, N.J. 12 x 14 mm, 0.93 grams (LS-M). [This pin was produced in the New York area; the date is conjecture based on style. The Armenian General Benevolent Union, a large charitable society, was founded in 1906.]

¹⁰ Manouk Jizmejian, *Patmutiun Amerikahai Kaghakakan Kousaktoutiants 1890-1925* (Fresno: Nor Or, 1930), pp. 360 ff. (in Armenian).

ORG 5. Armenian Revolutionary Federation 36th Anniversary (Nov. 7, 1926). Black on white pin, with attached red ribbon stamped in gold leaf. The pin shows photo portraits of Krisdapor (Mikaelian), (Simon) Zavarian, and Rosdom, each labeled beneath in Armenian. Ribbon attached to pin inscribed in English and Armenian, reading 36th Anniversary/of A. R. F./"DASCHNAKTZOUTUN"/ARF insignia with Armenian letters ՀՅԴ on banner/ Հ. Յ. ԴԱՇՆԱԿՑՈՒԹԻՒՆ/Nov. 7/1890-1926. Label in back of pin reads Wm. Lehmburg & Sons, 138 N 10th St., Phila, Pa. Pin diameter 31.7 mm, overall length pin plus ribbon 136 mm, ribbon width 40 mm, total weight 3.71 grams (MP). [This pin was made and distributed in Philadelphia, PA, on November 7, 1926, on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. The ARF, the largest Armenian political organization in the diaspora, enjoyed a strong following in Philadelphia. This impressive piece in very fine condition with intact ribbon was obtained from an old collection in the Philadelphia area.]

ORG 6.* Armenian General Benevolent Union (undated, ca. 1931). Flag with horizontal light blue-green, white, and red stripes. The top stripe shows Armenian letters Հ. Բ. Ղ. Մ., the center white stripe shows two shaking hands, and the bottom stripe shows the letters A.G.B.U. Label reads "Made by Eagle Regalia Co., 298 Broadway, New York" with union bug indicating Baltimore. 24 mm, 1.89 grams (LS-M). [The shaking hands symbol was an early insignia of the AGBU and was used on items issued in 1931.¹¹]

ORG 7.* Haiasdani Oknootian Gomideh (undated, ca. 1935). Red and black on white, man presenting a tray offering factories to Mt. Ararat. Armenian letters ՀՕԿ in lower right. Label in back indicates pin was made by "Varteresian Bros., jewelry, phonograph & records, 383 Third Ave., N.Y.C." 22 mm, 1.62 grams (LS-M). [Haiasdani Oknootian Gomideh (Armenian Aid Committee) was a front organization of the Armenian Communist Party of the USA. Possibly this pin was issued to coincide with the 15th anniversary of Soviet Armenia in 1935.]

ORG 8. Haiasdani Oknootian Gomideh (undated, ca. 1935). Enameled metallic red, silver, and gold pin with stud designed for jacket buttonhole. Twin peaks of Mt. Ararat, sun rising between with rays, Armenian letters ՀՕԿ in gold on red sky. Beaded edge. 16 mm, 3.68 grams (LS, obtained from a New York collection). [This piece was accompanied by a postcard commemorating the 15th anniversary of Soviet Armenia in 1935.]

ORG 9.* SSR of Armenia (undated, ca. 1935). Coat of arms of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia, showing the twin peaks of Mt. Ararat with hammer and sickle above, red sky, blue mountain with white snow-capped peaks, and golden wheat. Armenian legend ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ԱՌՏԻԱԼԻՍՏԱԿԱՆ ԽՈՐՀՐԴԱՅԻՆ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ/ՊՏՈՒՆՏԱՐԿԵՐ ԲՈՂՈՐ ՅԵՐԿՐԵՆԻ ՄԻԱՑԵՔ. Label in back reads "Made by B. Harris Co., 229 Bowery, N.Y.C." 25 mm, 1.87 grams (LS-M). [The date assigned, corresponding to the 15th anniversary of Armenia's sovietization, is conjecture. This form of the name of the Armenian state was used from ca. 1920-1921 until about 1937. This pinback, made in New York, may have been issued by the Armenian Communist Party of the USA.]

ORG 10.* Armenian National Society Thank You (undated). Black and white photographic half-tone reproduction of a three-story dwelling with the Armenian

¹¹ The same motif appears on a 1931-dated AGBU 25th anniversary medal in the author's collection.

abbreviation Հայ. Ազգ. Ընկ. above and below in English ThanK You. 24 mm, 1.78 grams (LS-M). [The attractive dwelling depicted on this pin is possibly a newly-acquired office of this organization. The organization has not been identified and further information is sought concerning this item.]

ORG 11.* Armenian Relief Society 40th Anniversary (1950). Blue wreath enclosing the letters A.R.S., legend reading 40th ANNIVERSARY/A.R.S./1910-1950. 25 mm, 1.96 grams (LS). Embossed stamp on the metal in rear showing shears and pincers and number 137, probably a union label. [The Armenian Relief Society is a large Armenian women's charitable society established in Boston in 1910. Two examples of this pin have been seen by the writer, one obtained from Illinois and the other from Rhode Island.]

ORG 12.* Armenian Revolutionary Federation 50 Year Service Pin (undated, ca. 1950). Metallic gold or gold-plated insignia of the ARF with the number 50 above. Insignia consists of a flag held aloft, a spade, a quill, and a sword. 10x12 mm, 2.04 grams (LS, obtained in Wisconsin). This pin has a threaded post and locking nut to attach to a jacket lapel.

ORG. 13.* Armenian Relief Society 25 year Service Pin (undated, ca. 1955). Metallic gold or gold-plated insignia of the ARS with large incuse 25 on the back. Heart-shaped pin shows the sun and rays between the twin peaks of Mt. Ararat. The Armenian letters Ն. Օ. Մ. (Hai Oknoutian Mioutium) on a blue enameled field hang from a cross which is also the hilt of a sword. The entire scene is framed with a wreath of oak leaves (on left) and wheat (on right). 18 x 26 mm, 4.27 grams (LS, obtained from a California dealer).

Armenian Flag pins

The use of multi-color printing made it possible to issue pins depicting flags in their natural colors. Pins depicting Armenian flags were evidently issued by Armenian and non-Armenian organizations. In this classification only those pins for which a flag is the central theme are listed. Armenian flags also appear on pins in other categories (see Relief and Organization categories above). Altogether, quite a variety of flags were used and this calls for some further investigation.

FLAG 1. Armenian Tricolor (1918-1921 era). Waving Armenian tricolor (enameled red, blue, and yellow flag) on white field with gold plating. Button with stud designed for jacket lapel buttonhole. Armenian inscription reading 28 ՄԱՅԻՄ 1918. 14 mm, 1.95 grams (LS, obtained from a Wisconsin collection).

FLAG 2.* Armenian Tricolor with superimposed insignia (undated, 1918-1921 or earlier?). A most unusual style stationary flag, lithographed red, yellow and blue horizontal stripes with an insignia superimposed on the center. Legend above in Armenian ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆ, below in English ARMENIA. The insignia is not that of the Republic of Armenia, but is adapted from an earlier coat of arms that was designed in the 19th century.¹² Inside the back of the pin in red are the words SHEFFIELD Sealect "A", suggest-

¹² See Ohan Gaidzakian, *Illustrated Armenia and the Armenians* (Boston: B. H. Aznive, 1898), cover and frontispiece, for illustrations of this insignia. The full design as depicted in Gaidzakian shows Mother Armenia seated amid ruins beneath a shield surmounted by a crown, flanked by flags of earlier eras; on the pin, however, only the shield surmounted by a crown appears. The shield itself is divided into five sectors, a central one showing Mt. Ararat, and four peripheral sectors showing eagles and lions of earlier Armenian dynasties. These details are only barely visible on the pin itself. The incorrect order of the flag colors, plus

ing that this pin was probably issued by a non-Armenian firm as an advertising item. The lower edge reads "BASTIAN BROS. CO. ROCHESTER, N.Y." 20 mm, 1.27 grams (LS, obtained 6/01 from a Florida dealer).

FLAG 3.* Armenian Tricolor with tassels (undated, 1918-1930 era). Waving Armenian tricolor (red, blue, and orange flag) with pole and tassels. English legend (only) reads ARMENIA. This pin is lithographed directly on the metal, and may have been distributed by Sweet Caporal Cigarettes or any of several other firms such as American Pepsin Gum and High Admiral cigarettes.¹³ 21 mm, 1.14 grams (LS). [No indication of the issuing company appears on this pin; however, it is known that Sweet Caporal issued pins for distribution with cigarettes bearing the flags of several countries.]

FLAG 4. Armenian Tricolor with tassels (undated, 1918-1930 era). Same as FLAG 3 above except colors are bright red, dark blue, and orange. 21 mm, 1.16 grams (LS). 20 mm, 1.20 grams (MP).

FLAG 5. Armenian Tricolor without tassels (undated, 1918-1930 era). Same design and colors as FLAG 4 above except flag has no tassels. This pin is labeled on the back in purple with a duck insignia, two union bugs, and a legend reading GREENDUCK CO. CHICAGO/ PAT FEB 13 1917. A number (probably the patent number) appears in very small print beneath the union bugs. 21 mm, 1.19 grams (MP).

FLAG 6.* Armenian Tricolor (undated, ca. 1920-1935 era). Armenian tricolor (red, blue, and orange flag) on pole on white field. 16 mm, 0.87 gram (LS, obtained from an Armenian collection in Illinois). [This pin has no date, legend, or label. The assigned date is conjecture.]

Political Campaign pins

Candidates for political office have issued pins for several decades. A few such pins are designed to appeal to ethnic voters. This category includes pins of candidates appealing to Armenian voters and pins of Armenian-American candidates for public office.

POL 1. Eisenhower Presidential Campaign (1952). Red, white and blue, portrait of President Dwight D. Eisenhower with legend in English letters reading YES GUE SIREM IKE or "I Like Ike" in the Armenian language. Back shows an embossed union bug "Union Label Local 137." A legend on the edge reads "10 M Armenian" and a union bug on the edge indicates the location of the "Allied Printing Trades Council 9" as "New York". 32 mm, two examples weigh 2.74 grams and 2.99 grams (LS). [This pin is thought to have been used in the 1952 presidential campaign. "I Like Ike" was a popular slogan during the campaign.]

POL 2. Eisenhower Presidential Campaign (1956). Red on white, Armenian legend reading ԵՍ ԱՅԳԸ ԿՐԻՋԵՄ. 25 mm, 1.69 grams (LS). [This pin was obtained from a dealer in Missouri who indicated that the pin was produced for the 1956 presidential campaign. The lettering is quite accurate, with the exception of one letter in the word "gouzem".]

the use of this design, suggests the possibility that this pin was issued prior to 1920.

¹³ Hake, p. 199.

* An asterisk next to pin numbers indicates pins illustrated in the plate.

LETTERS TO THE SOCIETY AND EDITOR

Հայաստանի պատմութեան պետական թանգարանի Դրամագիտութեան բաժնի աշխատակիցները մեծ կորստի զգացումով տեղեկացան ականաւոր դրամագէտ Ջարեհ Պտուկեանի կեանքից հեռանալու մասին:

Արտաշէսեանների և Ռուբենեանների դրամների դասակարգմամբ պատկուած գիտական երկարամեայ պրոպոզիւմներով, աշխարհում սփռուած հին հայկական դրամների գիտական շտեմարանի ստեղծման դժուարին գործով Ջարեհ Պտուկեանը մի նոր աստիճանի բարձրացրեց հայագիտութեան այդ կարևոր ճիւղը:

Ջարեհ Պտուկեանը ՀՊՊԹ-ի Դրամագիտութեան բաժնի մեծ բարեկամն էր և Հայաստանի մայր թանգարանի դրամագիտական ֆոնդը իր հուաբաժուից ընտրուած հարիւրաւոր արժէքաւոր դրամներով հարստացնող առատաձեռն նուիրատուներից մէկը:

ՀՊՊԹ տնօրինութիւնը և Դրամագիտութեան բաժնի անձնակազմը խորապէս ցաւակցում են հանգուցեալի մերձաւորներին և մտերիմներին, սգում մեծավաստակ գիտնականի կորուստը:

ՀՊՊԹ տնօրինութիւն

ՀՊՊԹ Դրամագիտութեան բաժին

Երևան,

24 Յուլիսի 2001թ.

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

34 FLOREN, Michael R. Worldwide Ration Currency; Recent Hardship in Caucasia. *Ration Board*, (March 2001), pp. 7-10, illus.

A brief historical background is given and the following Armenian ration tokens are presented: butter, granulated sugar, rice, broken wheat, tobacco, meat, "prima" tobacco, fish [animal butter], bread ration card for three months.

YTN

Տրուած է հակիրճ պատմական ուրուագիծ մը և ընծայուած են սննդեղէնի հետեւեալ կտրոնները՝ կարագ, շաքարաւազ, բրինձ, ձաւարեղէն, ծխախոտ, միս, ծխախոտ «Պրիմա», ձուկ [կենդանական եխղ], եռամսեայ հացի կտրոն:

ԵԹՆ

35 TABAKIAN, Yezrem. "Cilicia" Museum a Source of Intellectual and Spiritual Values - «Կիլիկիա» Թանգարանը աղբիւր հոգեմտաւոր արժէքներու, դրեց Եփրեմ Արք. Թապազեան. *Nor Gyank*, Vol. XXII (20 and 13 April 2000), Nos. 20 and 19, pp. 25 and 13, illus. Bilingual in English and Armenian.

The collection of the "Cilicia" Museum, located in Antelias, Lebanon, includes coins among other artifacts relating to the culture of Armenian people.

YTN

«Կիլիկիա» Թանգարանի հաւաքածոն, ղետեղուած Անթիլիաս, Լիբանան, նաև կը պարունակէ դրամներ հայ մշակութի իրերու հետ միատեղ:

ԵԹՆ