



Series II

Volume 4 (34), No. 4

December 2008

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ARMENIAN
NUMISMATIC
JOURNAL

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

Ս. Պետրոսյանից Երևան եմ վերադարձել երեք օր առաջ: Յառաջիկայ Երկուշաբթի մեկնում եմ Արցախ որտեղ մինչև Օգոստոսի վերջը մասնակցելու եմ Տիգրանակերտի պեղումներին: Ջերմ շիջողութիւններ են պահպանուել Ձեր ընդունելութիւնից: Ուրախ եմ, որ ստեղծուեց այդպիսի առիթ Լուս Անճելըս գալու ու Ձեզ հանդիպելու Երբ Երևան վերադառնամ Ձեզ կը գրեմ: Բուբէն Վարդանեան

Խորին շնորհակալութիւն եմ յայտնում Ձեր ընդունելութեան եւ վերաբերմունքի համար: Մէկ անգամ եւս փորձեմ ուղարկել չափազրական տուեալները: Կարէն Վարդանեան

ԱՐՏԱՎԱՃՉԻ II-Ի ԴՐԱՄՆԵՐԸ – COINAGE OF ARTAVASDES II

We have received additional copies of the *Coinage of Artavasdes II* from the author, Ruben Vardanyan. It is 140 pages, 16 plates, Erevan, 2004, 8x5.5 inches, card covers, in Armenian. It is distributed free of charge to the membership of Armenian Numismatic Society. Those who have not received a free copy in the past please contact the Society secretary. However, there is a shipping and handling charge of \$3.00 per book.

OBITUARY

Jack Guevrekian (16.XI.1931-†9.VII.2008)

Jack Guevrekian has been a friend and member of the Armenian Numismatic Society. He contributed numerous articles to the *Armenian Numismatic Journal*. He will be missed very sorely.

It is with deep sadness that I write about the death of Mr. Jack Guevrekian. Many members of the Armenian numismatic community would have known his name through the many hoards he made available for numismatists as Dr. Paul Bedoukian to study, as well as several scholarly articles about Armenian coins he wrote. Some may also remember him buying and selling all types of coins at various shows and numismatic events and finally, others may remember his famed "Araratian" collection, the greatest single public offering of Armenian coins auctioned through the Classical Numismatic Group.

Unfortunately, I met Mr. Guevrekian only last fall, when he visited me for lunch. Despite his age and health, Mr. Guevrekian radiated a strong energy and charisma, as well as a feeling of inspiration and goodness. We enjoyed our meal and reminisced with numismatic and personal stories. Before we parted our separate ways he presented me with several Armenian coins, and hoped I would help and inspire Armenian numismatists in the future, just as others had done for him when he first began to collect. Although I met him just once, he is not someone I will soon forget.

Levon Vrtanesyan

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Jack Guevrekian (16.XI.1931-†9.VII.2008)



Jack Guevrekian, husband of Irma Takuhi Guevrekian, succumbed after a fall to the head on Wednesday, July 9, 2008. He is survived by his wife and their two children: Nadine Tingir and Richard Guevrekian.

Jack was born on November 16, 1931 in Elmhurst, New York. His dear father, Norayr Guevrekian, was born in Istanbul, Turkey, and his dear mother, Serene Guevrekian nee Kalenderian, was born in Agen, Turkey. Jack and his younger brother Lawrence Guevrekian were brought up in a traditional Armenian home. This upbringing fostered his pride in his Armenian heritage and a tremendous love for the Armenian Church which continued for the rest of his days and which he passed down to his children.

Jack studied economics and graduated from Fordham University and completed some graduate courses at New York University. On a beautiful Fourth of July day at Asbury Park Beach in New Jersey, a young, twenty-one year old Jack met his wonderful wife

Irma Kalustyan. They married six short weeks later and just celebrated fifty-five years of being together. Jack started his life with his one and only Irma Takuhi, and they built a life together based on family, friends, and the Armenian Church.

Jack, a parishioner of the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs of Bayside, New York, taught Sunday School for twenty years, including courses such as Christian Morality and Armenian History. He also was a member of the Parish Council, Knights of Vartan and heavily involved in an endeavor very dear to his heart, the creation and establishment of the Armenian Daily School in his Parish.

Jack's love for his Armenian heritage and language expanded to both his profession and passion as a numismatist and collector of antiquities. He was an active member of the American Numismatic Society in New York and the Armenian Numismatic Society and lectured at Adelphi University. His interests were vast. He had the largest New York State colonial paper money collection, which has been permanently catalogued and published under his name. His Armenian note collection was also annotated and published by Mr. Yeghia T. Nercessian under the title *Bank Notes of Armenia*. Furthermore, his ancient and medieval Armenian coin collection was annotated by the same author under the title *Armenian Coins and Their Values*. Jack's personal favorite was studying the ancient Armenian coins of King Tigran (95 BC) and the medieval Cilician coins of King Levon I (1198 AD). His collections of these coins are annotated in Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian's books *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* and *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia*.

Jack's Armenian illuminated manuscripts have been displayed at the Piedmont Morgan Library in Manhattan, and a donated gold cross is permanently on display at the Armenian Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. He also donated a fifteenth century copper painting of the Holy Mother to the Holy Martyrs Armenian Church.

Jack is also survived by four granddaughters, Roxanne Tingir, Nicole Tingir, Corinne Tingir, and Samantha Guevrekian. He is deeply loved by them all. He instilled in them the importance of family unity, loyalty and compassion. With his expansive knowledge of things far and wide, history, culture and language, he set an example for the next generation to go forth, attain an education, and strive for truth and sincerity.

Jack had a most vibrant personality, and most importantly, he devoted himself to the beauty of living each and everyday. He was always ready to help a friend in need, or guide a family member through adversity. We will miss his expressiveness, his warmth of heart, and his endless mirth.

Services were held on Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11 at Holy Martyrs Armenian Church in Bayside, Queens. In lieu-of-flowers donations were asked to be made to the Holy Martyrs Church Building Fund and the Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School and sent to 209-15 Horace Harding Expressway, Bayside, New York 11364.

Nadine Tingir

NEWLY-FOUND GROUPS OF ARTAXIAD COPPER COINS¹

Ruben VARDANYAN, Karen VARDANYAN

(Plates 5-7)

About seven years ago, the first examples of small copper coins, which have a portrait of a king wearing the Armenian tiara on the obverse, appeared in the “ancient coin market” in Yerevan. The coins comprise four groups, according to the types on the reverse: a dog, bee, bird (eagle) and a male head. On the obverse of the coins with the reverse depicting a head, the king is represented turned left. In the other groups, the king’s head is turned right.² The issues are linked with each other by their fabric and style, a certain similarity in the king’s portraits, though there are differences, which will be spoken about below. Yet the main feature is the inscriptions in letters resembling Aramaic.

Taking into account that these issues have hitherto been unknown, the quantity of the registered examples exceeding five dozens is impressive. This is not a fact of merely replenishing the list of Artaxiad issues with new coins: it is a discovery unexpectedly expanding the limits of our knowledge about the coinage of Armenian kings. It is also material evidence substantially enriching our notions on the complex political and cultural situation in Armenia in the period of the Artaxiads’ decline.

Unfortunately, we have no accurate information on either the location or locations, or the circumstances and archeological environment of the coin finds. Such knowledge, without doubt, might have played an important role in their historical interpretation. Not being confident in the accuracy of data that have reached us,³ we can only assume that the greater part of the coins, which were apparently found together, not excluded as a hoard, originate from a place in the Ararat region (*marz*), as well as from the site of the ancient capital Artashat (Artaxata). In the course of regular archeological excavations at Artashat as far back as 1985, two coins of the same type were found with the image of a dog on the reverse, in a poor state of preservation. The other reverse types became known during the recent several years. The History Museum of Armenia (HMA) managed to obtain 18 examples, and Karen Vardanyan was able to save 42 coins from dispersion. Two examples appeared on the numismatic market in Europe in 2005, and two others in 2008.⁴ Combining the whole available material on the above-mentioned series, we present their classification with metrological data and photographs, trying also to reason out a possible reading of the legends, dating and attribution of the coins, and historical interpretation of this coinage.

¹ Originally published in *Handes Ansorya* (2005), Vol. CXVIII, pp. 75-120 (in Armenian). Translated by Aida Frunjan.

² With one exception, see III.17.

³ The consistency of responsible organizations in preserving archeological heritage in Armenia and individuals’ awareness of this matter are still far from being sufficient. There is a need to improve legislation. Special efforts are required for the public to be informed and to be aware of the importance of preserving archeological heritage that vanishes year by year and cannot be restored. In particular, Denmark and England have a model legislation and cooperation established between legislators, law enforcement agencies, scientists and ordinary citizens in these countries, see A. Burnett, *The Scheme for Recording Portable Antiquities in Britain: Progress Report, International Numismatic Commission Comptes rendus* 49 (2000), pp. 19-26, J.C. Moesgaard, *The Law and Practice Concerning Coin Finds in Denmark, International Numismatic Commission Comptes rendus* 49 (2000), pp. 27-33; also, R. Vardanyan, *Archeological Heritage – National Wealth, Law and Reality* 7 (2002), p. 29-31 (in Armenian).

⁴ Gorny & Mosch 165 (17 March 2008), Nos 1394, 1395.

Description of the coins

Dog (Plate 5)

Obv.: King's head r., bearded, with a five-pointed Armenian tiara. The neck piece of the tiara drops vertically, while the ear flap is slanted over the neck piece to the back. The royal diadem is seen on the left side of the tiara as a horizontal line, while at the back of the head it is shown as an oblique line coming down from the foot of the tiara. No ornamentation is seen on the tiara.

Rev.: Dog standing r., with a narrow body, long neck and end of tail pointed up. Above the dog, starting from its ear, *MLK'* – "king" is written in Aramaic from right to left. Below the dog, in a semi-circular position, another word, supposedly the king's name written in letters resembling Aramaic, is placed.

I.1. 0.56 g, 10.5 mm, 1 h. Artashat (Artaxata), surface find, HMA No. 19878/59. Rev.: *MLK* letters hardly visible above, the legend below is off flan.

I.2. 0.91 g, 11.2 mm, 12 h. HMA No. 19980/7. Rev.: Traces of the legend are vaguely seen.

I.3. 0.97 g, 10 mm, 12 h. K. Vardanyan collection (henceforth referred to as KV coll.). Rev.: Letters *MLK* are seen.

I.4. 1.03 g, 11.6 mm, 12 h. HMA No. 20003/5. Rev.: Letters *LK* are vaguely seen above, while several letters – on the left and below.

I.5. 1.10 g, 11.2 mm, 2 h. Private coll. Rev.: Letters *MLK* are seen on the top and several letters on the right and below.

I.6. 1.15 g, diam. ?, axis ? Gorny & Mosch 138 (7-8 March 2005), No. 1504. Rev.: Letters *MLK* are seen above; the legend is off flan below.

I.7. 1.18 g, 11.2 mm, 1h. Artashat (Artaxata), surface find, HMA No. 19878/58. Rev.: Above, the legend is off-flan; three letters are seen below.

I.8. 1.2 g, 11 mm, 12 h. KV coll. Rev.: Letters *MLK* are vaguely visible.

I.9. 1.28 g, 11 mm, 12 h. KV coll. Rev.: Above and below, several letters are vaguely visible.

I.10. 1.33 g, 11.8 mm, 1h. KV coll. Rev.: The legend is off-flan above; a few letters are seen below.

I.11. 1.39 g, 11.5 mm, 11 h. HMA No. 19980/5. Rev.: The legend is off flan above; two or three letters are seen below.

I.12. 1.4 g, 12 mm, 12 h. KV coll. Rev.: *MLK* above.

I.13. 1.59 g, 12.1 mm, 1 h. KV coll. Rev.: Letters *MLK* are seen above; the legend is off flan below.

I.14. 1.6 g, 11 mm, 12 h. KV coll. Rev.: The legend is off flan above; two letters are seen below.

I.15. 1.75 g, 12.6 mm, 1 h. KV coll. Obv.: The king is seen wearing a pointed mitre, which is, perhaps, an illusion due to some technical flaw at coinage. Legends almost invisible.

I.16. 1.75 g, 12.4 mm, 12 h. Artashat (Artaxata), KV coll. It is comparatively the best example preserved. On the obverse, the word *MLK'* is read almost completely (letter *alef* partly visible); three or four letters are seen below. (Enlarged, Plate 7).

Bird (eagle) (Plate 5)

Obv.: Bust of the king r., bearded, with a high and narrow Armenian tiara of five, occasionally crooked points. In the frontal part, there is a “visor” curving upwards. The ear flap of the tiara drops vertically, while the neck piece, making an angle with the ear flap at the ear side, is slanted to the back. The diadem in the form of two lines is sometimes seen at the bottom of the tiara. No ornamentation is seen on the tiara. The legend is arranged before and behind the king’s head.

Rev.: Bird (eagle) standing l. No legend seen.

II. 1. 0.80 g, 11.1 mm, 1h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Slight traces of a legend behind the head.

II.2. 0.8 g, 12 mm, 12 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** The legend is vaguely seen before the head and, partly, behind the head.

II.3. 0.81 g, 10.9 mm, 1 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Slight traces of inscription are seen behind the head.

II.4. 0.83 g, 12.2 mm, 12 h. Gift by A. Gevorkian, HMA No. 20033. **Obv.:** The legend is partly seen before the face and behind the head. (Enlarged, Plate 7). This coin and one of the coins with the image of a bee on the reverse (III.15) were struck with the same obverse die.

II.5. 0.88 g, 11 mm, 12 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Legend almost indistinct.

II.6. 0.97 g, 12.5 mm, 12 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Traces of inscription are seen before the face and behind the head.

II.7. 1.00 g, 11 mm, 1 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Slightly visible traces of inscription behind the head.

II.8. 1.00 g, 9 mm, 12 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Slightly visible traces of inscription before the head.

II.9. 1.03 g, 10.6 mm, 12h. HMA No. 19985/2. **Obv.:** The legend is seen before the face and, partly, behind the head.

II.10. 1.09 g, 11.3 mm, 2 h. HMA No. 19980/8. **Obv.:** Nothing is seen of the inscription.

II.11. 1.21 g, 13 mm, 12 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Almost nothing is seen of the inscription.

II.12. 1.43 g, 11.5 mm, 12 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Inscription is seen behind the head and before the face.

Bee (Plate 5)

Obv.: Bust of the king r., bearded, with a high and narrow Armenian tiara of three or more, sometimes crooked points. There is a “visor” curving upwards on the frontal part. The narrow ear flap of the tiara drops vertically, while the neck piece, making an angle with the ear flap at the ear side, is slanted to the back. The diadem in the form of two slightly visible lines is seen at the bottom of the tiara, while at the back of the head, it is sometimes observed as a thin oblique line. No ornamentation is seen on the tiara. There are inscriptions before and behind the king’s head.

Rev.: Bee, whose image occupies the entire field of the reverse. No inscriptions.

III.1. 0.80 g, 12.2 mm, 12 h. HMA No. 2003/4. **Obv.:** Nothing is seen of the inscription.

III.2. 0.83 g, 13.1 mm, 11 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Traces of inscription are seen behind the head.

III.3. 1.08 g, 12.7 mm, 1 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Traces of inscription are seen behind the head.

III.4. 1.18 g, 13.6 mm, 5 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Nothing is seen of the inscription.

III.5. 1.21 g, 14.3 mm, 12 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Nothing is seen of the inscription.

III.6. 1.24 g, 12.4 mm, 6 h. HMA No. 20003/3. **Obv.:** Nothing is seen of the inscription.

III.7. 1.32 g, 13 mm, 12 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Traces of inscription are seen behind the head; before the face, the inscription is off-flan.

III.8. 1.35 g, 12.5 mm, 1 h. HMA No. 19980/4. **Obv.:** Traces of inscription are seen behind the head.

III.9. 1.40 g, 12.4 mm, 12 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Traces of inscription are seen behind the head. (Enlarged, Plate 7).

III.10. 1.48 g, 12.4 mm, 11 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Slight traces of the legend are seen behind the head; before the head, legend off flan.

III.11. 1.52 g, 13.2 mm, 6 h. HMA No. 19985/1. **Obv.:** Traces of the legend are not seen.

III.12. 1.60 g, 14 mm, 12 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Faint traces of the legend are seen before and behind the head.

III.13. 1.61 g, 12.2 mm, 1 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Faint traces of the legend are seen before and behind the head.

III.14. 1.63 g, 13.3 mm, 11 h. HMA No. 19992/146. **Obv.:** The image and the legend have practically not preserved.

III.15. 1.84 g, 13.8 mm, 11 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** The legend is seen before and behind the head. This coin and one of the coins with the image of a bird on the reverse (II.4) were struck with the same obverse die.

III.16. 1.93 g, 14.1 mm, 12 h. HMA No. 20003/2. **Obv.:** Slight traces of the legend are seen.

Obv.: Similar to the preceding, but the king's head turned left. **Rev.:** Similar to the preceding.

III.17. 2.09 g, 14 mm, 12 h. KV coll. **Obv.:** Traces of inscription before and behind the head.

Male head (Plate 6)

Obv.: Bust of the king I., bearded, with a high and narrow Armenian tiara of five points. There is a "visor" curving upwards on the frontal part. The ear flap of the tiara comes down vertically, while the neck piece, making an angle with the ear flap at the earside, is slanted to the back. No ornamentation is seen on the tiara. There are inscriptions before and behind the king's head.

Rev.: Male head r., bearded (?), with a diadem. The hair is depicted as curved lines.

Newly-Found Groups of Artaxiad Copper Coins

- IV.1. 1.09 g, 9.10 mm, 1 h. KV coll. Obv.: Traces of the legend are seen before the face.
- IV.2. 1.33 g, 14.1 mm, 12 h. KV coll. Obv.: Traces of the legend are seen before and behind the head.
- IV.3. 1.61 g, 16.2 mm, 2 h. HMA No. 19992/147. Obv.: Nothing is seen of the inscription.
- IV.4. 1.63 g, 15 mm, 12 h. KV coll. Obv.: *MLK'* behind the head; faint traces of inscription opposite the face.
- IV.5. 1.72 g, 15.2 mm, 9 h. HMA No. 19985/4. Obv.: Traces of the legend are seen opposite the face.
- IV.6. 2.10 g, 17 mm, 10 h. J. Christianian coll. Obv.: Comparatively well-preserved inscription opposite the face.
- IV.7. 2.20 g, 17 mm, 12 h. KV coll.
- IV.8. 2.23 g, 16.7 mm, 12 h. HMA No. 19985/3. Obv.: Nothing is seen of the inscription.
- IV.9. 2.34 g, 15 mm, 12 h. KV coll. Obv.: The legend is faintly seen before and behind the head.
- IV.10. 2.62 g, 15.8 mm, 12 h. HMA No. 20003/1. Obv.: Traces of the legend are seen opposite the face.
- IV.11. 2.64 g, 15 mm, 10 h. J. Christianian collection. Obv.: The word *MLK'* is legible at the back of the head.
- IV.12. 2.66 g, 15.1 mm, 1 h. KV coll. Obv.: Practically nothing is seen of the inscription.
- IV.13. 2.73 g, 16.4 mm, 10 h. KV coll. Obv.: Comparatively well-preserved inscription before and behind the head.
- IV.14. 2.90 g, 17 mm, 12 h. KV coll.
- IV.15. 3.19 g, 17.1 mm, 1 h. KV coll. Obv.: Traces of the legend are seen opposite the face.
- IV.16. 3.36 g, 17.3 mm, 12 h. KV coll. Obv.: Nothing is seen of the inscription.
- IV.17. 3.65 g, 16 mm, 12 h. KV coll. Obv.: *MLK'* behind the head; inscription practically unseen opposite the face.
- IV.18. 3.84 g, 17 mm, 12 h. KV coll. Obv.: *MLK'* behind the head and comparatively well-preserved inscription opposite the face. (Enlarged, Plate 7).
- IV.19. 3.95 g, 17.3 mm, 12 h. HMA No. 19992/145. Obv.: Nothing is seen of the inscription.
- IV.20. 4.55 g, 18 mm, 12 h. KV coll. Obv.: *MLK'* behind the head, four or five letters opposite the face.

Obverse types

In all the groups, the king's head is depicted up to the shoulder, bearded and wearing a pointed Armenian tiara with a neck piece and an ear flap. The fabric is rather crude, and details of the type are not fully distinct. In the iconographical details, however, there are certain differences, on the basis of which two portrait types may be differentiated.

The position of the king's head

The coins with a dog and a bird on the reverse, as well as the majority of coins with the image of a bee on the reverse, present the king's head turned right on the obverse, with one exception, III.17, where the king faces left. In the issues with a male head on the reverse, the king's face is leftward only.

The king's head on Artaxiad coins is depicted turned right, as a rule. Prior to the appearance of this group, we had only one exception: four issues of a king called Tigran, where he is depicted with his face turned left. These coins, in our belief, could have been issued not earlier than during the two or three last decades of the I century BC.⁵ At present, we have two more issues of another king, in one of which the face is turned right, with one exception hitherto known, where the face is leftwards (III.17), while the other issue (IV) entirely represents the king with his face turned left.

On the coins of the Parthian Kingdom or the countries under the sphere of its influence, the depiction of the king's head in this or that position (right or left, sometimes frontal), as a phenomenon of a political or ideological significance, had traversed certain stages, when, eventually, the principle of portraying a face turned left was established.⁶ In Parthia, the final transition from the right position to the left took place under Mithridates II, followed by the kings of Persis and Elymaïs. In Armenia, Tigran II adopted the Seleucid tradition, depicting himself with his face turned right, which was continued by his successors. In the above-mentioned Armenian issues, portraits looking left, likely hint at the Parthian orientation of those kings.

King's portrait

Comparing iconographic and stylistic features of these royal portraits with the characteristics of other Artaxiad kings' portraits, the possible time of their coinage may be determined. Tigran II and Artavazd II were depicted beardless on the coins. Artashes II was the first among the Armenian kings to be represented bearded on his copper coins issued in 31/30 BC.⁷ The king is again beardless on the coins attributed to Tigran III, with the exception of drachms, where there seems to be hair-growth on his cheek.⁸ A sufficiently large number of coins with the portrait of a bearded king and bearing the name of Tigran are usually attributed to Tigran IV.⁹ Artavazd III was also bearded, while Tigran V was beardless.

With a few exceptions, the Greek-Macedonian kings of the Hellenistic period and Rome's Late Republican leaders and emperors preceding Hadrian were depicted beardless on the coins. Tigran II and his son Artavazd II followed the Western tradition. The kings were depicted

⁵ R.Y. Vardanyan, "On the Question of Dating Two Groups of Armenian Coins of the Hellenistic Epoch," *Patma-Banasirakan Handes*, No. 2 (1978), pp. 195-201 (in Russian).

⁶ R.Y. Vardanyan, "The Arsacid Turn", - *Vestnik Drevnej Istorii*, 4, (1992), p. 106-115 (in Russian); R. Vardanyan, "Zur Deutung des Königsprofils auf parthischen Münzen," *Archäologische Mitteilungen aus Iran und Turan*, Band 32 (2000), pp. 254-259.

⁷ R. Vardanyan, "A Dated Copper Coin of Artaxias II — Evidence on the Use of the Pompeyan Era in Artaxata," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. XXVII (2001), No. 4, pp. 89-94.

⁸ P.Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia* (London, 1978), Pl. 6, no. 137; as for other cases, *ibid.*, nos. 139, 141; Y.T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Their Values* (Los Angeles, 1995), Pl. 11, no. 138, Pl. 12, no. 152, it is difficult to express a definite idea.

⁹ P.Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia*, Pl. 7, nos. 148-151, 153-158.

bearded in Persis right from the beginning of coinage, from the mid-3rd century BC. A transition was made from depicting kings beardless to their bearded representations in the royal portraits on the coins in Parthia during the last years of the reign of Mithridates I, and in Elymaïs and Characene in the first half of the 1st century BC.

The royal portraits on the coinage under discussion supplement the number of bearded portraits of Artaxiad kings. The bearded or beardless portrayal may be observed in the cultural-ideological and political context of the East and the West, though not directly, but taking into account the entire body of data referring to each individual case available to us.¹⁰

We have remarked above that it is possible to differentiate two types of royal portraits in these groups. One of them represents coins with the image of a dog on the reverse, and the second represents the other three groups.

The first type of the portrait is distinguished by a vertical outline, in which the back edge of the tiara forms a direct or almost direct angle with the neck piece. With this feature, as well as the shape of the tiara (not tall, with five distinct points on the top), this type reminds of the portrait of Artavazd II on certain copper coins, and the portraits of a Tigran represented with his head turned left, also Artashes II. It is also linked with the latter in the modeling of the king's face.

The tiaras of Tigran III, Tigran IV and Artavazd III in the greater part of their issues, besides the neck piece hanging on the neck, have a vertically descending ear flap, as on the coins of Tigran II. However, in the coins of Tigran III and Tigran IV, there are examples, where the neck piece and the ear flap of the tiara are not distinctly separated from each other,¹¹ or the neck piece is missing,¹² or, which is the most interesting to us at the moment, in a number of issues attributed to Tigran IV, the ear flap is depicted upon the neck piece, curving to the shoulder.¹³ This iconographic element may play a significant role in attribution or at least in narrowing the boundaries of the time of coinage.

In the groups representing a bee, a bird and a male head on the reverse, the king's portrait is generally of the same type. Unlike the previous type, the king's tiara is tall and narrow here, the points are mostly crooked and it is often difficult to define their number. The back edge of the tiara and the neck piece slanting to the back form a straight angle, and the narrow ear flap is hanging straight. At the frontal part of the tiara, there is an element resembling a "visor", which in reality is not easy to identify. In these groups, the portraits seem to have been executed in haste, in some cases rather carelessly and unskillfully. The fact that two of the coins – one with the image of a bird on the reverse (II.4) and the other with a bee (III.15) – were struck with the same obverse die, confirms that these two groups are contemporary or are very close to each other in time. If that obverse die had not been used at the same time when issuing both groups, but one of the groups had succeeded the other, then the coin with the bird image preceded the coin with the bee, as the obverse on the first was struck with a die in a comparatively better state than the other.

¹⁰ R. Vardanyan, "The Arsacid Turn..."; R. Vardanyan, "Zur Deutung des Königsprofils...".

¹¹ Tigran III, see Y.T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Their Values*, nos. 144, 149; Classical Numismatic Group, Auction 36 (1996), no. 620.

¹² Tigran III, see Y.T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins...*, no. 150.

¹³ Y.T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins...*, nos. 158, 160; Classical Numismatic Group, Auction 36 (1996), nos. 625, 626, 629, 630.

Reverse types

The images of a dog, a bee and a male head are new in the repertory of Artaxiad coin types. In the copper issues of Tigran the Great, a horse and an elephant are known as reverse types. Depictions of single animals have not yet been known on the coin issues of Artavazd II and Artashes II. Coins with animal images (eagle, elephant, horse, lion's head) were especially abundantly issued under Tigran III. An eagle and an elephant are found on the coins of Tigran IV; in the issues of Artavazd III, an eagle is seen standing on a heap of stones; on the coins of Tigran IV and Erato, the protomae of a prancing horse is seen.

Mystical is the male head wearing a diadem, which in some examples seems to be beardless, while in others, it is obviously bearded. There are differences in the depictions of hairstyle as well.

Metrology

In all groups taken together, the weights of the coins range from 0.80 g to 4.55 g and the size - from 10 to 18 mm. However, there are certain differences between the groups in weight and size. The lightest are the coins of bird type on the reverse: 0.80-1.43 g, with an average weight of 0.9 g. The coins with the dog image on the reverse weigh 0.91-1.75 g, with the average weight of 1.30 g.¹⁴ The latter with its weight data is quite close to the group of coins with the bee type: 0.83-1.93 g, with an average weight of 1.41 g (1.45 g).¹⁵ The heaviest are the coins with a male head on the reverse: 1.33 - 4.55 g, with the average weight of 2.69 g.¹⁶

Weight	Up to 1 g	1-2 g	2-3 g	3-4 g	More than 4 g
Bird	6	6			
Dog	2	13			
Bee	2	15	1		
Male head		5	9	5	1

In the bird group, six coins out of twelve have fallen into the column of 1-2 g, but four of them weigh 1-1.09 g, i.e. they are close to the minimal weight. In the dog and bee groups, coins weighing 1-2 g comprise the majority; coins weighing 2-3 g and more comprise the majority in the male head group.

In the bird and dog groups, the greater part of the coins have a diameter of about 11-12 mm. The coins of the bee group are close to the coins of the dog group in their weight data; however, their flans are thinner and a bit larger in size - 12-14 mm. In the male head group, coins of 15-17 mm prevail.

¹⁴ We have not taken into account the weight of the broken coin I.1.

¹⁵ We have not taken into account the weight of the broken coin III.1. In the brackets is the average weight of the coins, including III.17 (2.09 g).

¹⁶ We have not taken into account the weight of the broken coin IV.1.

Newly-Found Groups of Artaxiad Copper Coins

Diameter	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18 mm
Bird	1	2	5	3	1					
Dog		2	9	4						
Bee				7	6	4				
Male head						1	6	4	7	1

These data give us grounds to conclude that we deal with three issues of different values: small (bird), average (dog and bee) and large (male head). However, it is not excluded that these metrological differences can be explained by the fact that copper coins were issued without any observance of strict rules, when coins of the same denomination could differ several grams in weight and several millimeters in size.

If we do not take into account the metrological data of the copper coins of Tigran the Great, as the coins under discussion are in no way linked to this king and his period, we can prove that Artavazd II, succeeding him, did not issue copper coins of such a light weight: the weight of the two series of his copper coins of Nike and cypress types range from 3 to 8 grams.¹⁷ After Tigran the Great, Artashes II was the first to issue copper coins of small weight like the ones under discussion, with a grape vine and cornucopia on the reverse.¹⁸ The copper coins of Tigran III varied from 2.5-3 to 7.5-8 grams. The coinage of Tigran IV went on preserving the weight range of Artavazd II and Tigran III, though an increase in the quantity of light-weight coins is observed in the above-mentioned limits. Moreover, in the coinage of Tigran IV, the smaller denominations, weighing from 1.1-1.5 to 2.5 grams and with a diameter varying from 11 to 15 mm, prevail. The coins of Artavazd III, Tigran IV and Erato are of only heavy weight: from 3.5-4 to 6.5 grams. The weight of the coins of Tigran with his head turned left is almost the same: from 3 to 6 grams. This metrological survey gives another argument in favor of dating our coins within the last three decades of the I century BC. Thus, Artashes II, Tigran III and Tigran IV were the kings, besides Tigran the Great, who issued very small copper coins.

Legends

We have reached perhaps the most important and the most complex matter of deciphering the legends. Let us first remind that in one of the groups the legend is found on the reverse of the coin, around the dog's image, while in others it is placed on the obverse, opposite the king's face and at the back of his head. As we see, the first and the other three groups differ not only in the portraiture of the king, but also in the placement of the legend.

In the examples known to us, there are no coins with the legend completely preserved. Unfortunately, the available examples do not permit restoring the whole legend with confidence by way of comparing the coins and supplementing each other. The letters are seen more distinctly on the coins with the dog's image, while in other groups, the inscriptions were engraved on the die quite

¹⁷ R. Vardanyan, *Coins of Artavazd II* (Yerevan, 2004), pp. 102-106 (in Armenian).

¹⁸ HMA No. 19878/54, 1.75 g, 12.1 mm.

carelessly, and the coins were struck without sufficient care, to which must be added the poor state of preservation of the coins.

Prior to our attempt at deciphering the legends, let us ask ourselves: in what language, or rather in the letters of which alphabet, Aramaic or Greek, were the legends written? The question may seem odd, as a person who is more or less familiar with these alphabets can easily tell them apart. However, we shall try to show that we are dealing with a more complicated case than could be expected. Let us first say that the Artaxiads had their coins written in Greek. The legends are usually easily read, though there are individual cases of distortion of the letters. The legends of the coins under discussion seem to leave no doubt that the legends are written in Aramaic alphabet. Here, however, we shall propose two alternative versions of reading, as the material available does not afford a possibility of an indisputable conclusion, in our opinion.

Version one

The confidence that the legends are in Aramaic letters is strengthened by the word *MLK'* (king), distinctly read in several examples. It is placed on the top of the reverse side of the coins with a dog's image (I.3, I.6, I.13, I.16); in other groups, it is placed on the obverse, behind the king's head (II.4, IV.4, IV. 13, IV.18, IV. 20). Thus, the word written below on the reverse of the coins with a dog's image, and in other groups, written opposite the king's face, should be the king's name.

In the coins with the dog's image, the letters of the word *MLK'* are directed with their heads to the outside, while in other groups they are directed with their heads to the inside (see the enlarged photographs, Plate 7). In the dog group, the letters of the king's name do not have clear and unambiguous shapes to be able to define the direction of the legend reading without hesitation: holding the coin straight, or turned 180 degrees? Besides pure logic, which finds more probable the version of holding the coin straight and reading the word from the right side of the field, there is yet another technical feature, which seems to help resolve this matter. In the word *MLK'*, as exemplified by the letters *lamed* and *kaf*, it is seen that their upper parts are thicker and more prominent, and their lower parts are pointed. This "cuneiform" nature typical of the Aramaic writing style may be explained by the fact that when writing, the engraver moved his hand in the direction from above to below, and as a result of greater pressure of the hand at the beginning, the initial part of each line was engraved deeper and wider, while the end was engraved more at the surface and pointed, receiving an appearance, happens when writing letters with an ink pen with a split ending. Numerous examples of "cuneiform character" of letters may be found in the Aramaic legends of the Persis, Elymais and other coins,¹⁹ as well as in the inscriptions of the bullas found in ancient Artashat.²⁰ Proceeding from this feature, we should accept that the letters of the word placed at the lower part of the coin are directed with their heads to the inside, as the pointed parts of the vertical lines of two letters immediately under the dog are directed outside, i.e. the engraver did not change the position of the die when writing both *MLK'* and the word below the dog.

¹⁹ The writing style of the Aramaic letters on Parthian coins, however, was completely different, dotted-linear, i.e. just the same as the style of the Greek-lettered legends placed on the same coin.

²⁰ We are grateful to J. Khachatryan for having provided us with the photographs of bullas to get acquainted with the Aramaic legends on them.

The first letter on the right is found on three coins (I.5, I.7, and I.10) and seems to have a cruciform shape. The second letter, unfortunately, is not entirely seen on any of the coins. The next letter is composed of a vertical line and nearly a horizontal line, combining with it on the right.²¹ The other letter Γ consists of a vertical line and a Γ -shaped part, combining with it on the left, half as longer.²² The letter next to the last has the form of Ψ . Of the last visible letter, near the dog's tail, probably only a segment is seen (I.4, I.6, I.16) and has a semi-circular form. In the available examples, in fact, only three letters are clearly seen $\Psi\Gamma\Gamma$, and the entire word could have the following appearance: $\Psi\Gamma\Gamma\Gamma$.

It is known that in the course of Parthian era, a number of Eastern peoples subject to the Achemenids previously, created local alphabets based on the Aramaic. Despite a certain commonality, some of their letters greatly differ from each other. A letter of the same pattern might be used in a different significance in different alphabets. Moreover, one and the same sound in the same local alphabet might have totally different forms of writing not only chronologically (earlier forms, later forms), but also in various texts of the same period and even in the same text. Together with this, several letters of even "classical" Aramaic (*dalet*, *kaf*, *resh*) are so like each other, that they may be differentiated only in certain contexts, and sometimes this similarity causes diverse reading. If we add to this the carelessness and mistakes found at times in the legends and the imperfect state of preservation, as in the case under discussion, the reading of Aramaic legends often resembles solving a puzzle.²³

In this connection, we have made up comparative tables (Table 1) of letter-forms in Aramaic inscriptions found in Armenia, as well as those in coin legends of the countries of the Iranian and Semitic world (Table 2), assuming that they might guide us in reading the legends.

It is very important to decipher correctly the first letter in the word and the number of letters, which can help, taking into account the names of the Artaxiad kings – Artashes, Tigran, Artavazd (supposing *a priori* that we have one of them on this coin) to be able to get orientated in the matter of deciphering other letters. The first cruciform letter is found in the legends of the Persis coins, within the range of various *alef* letters (Table 2, Persis). In Aramaic coin legends, the other letter appearing in this form is *mem* (Table 2, Parthia, Sogdiana, Elymaïs). In the word *MLK*['], however, we have a regular *mem*. Thus, it is probable that the first letter in the king's name is not *mem*, but *alef*. This deciphering might become easier, if *alef* in *MLK*' was entirely seen, which is unfortunately off flan or seen partially on the available examples of coins with the dog's image. In the group with the male head on the reverse, in the word *MLK*', we have that version of *alef*, which is found on the borderstones of Artashes (Table 1). By the way, in the inscriptions of Tsakqar and Spitak, *alef* appears in two forms. Such an *alef* is also found in the legends of Sogdian coins (Table 2).

The second letter if it has the form of Ψ , is found on the borderstones of Artashes discovered in Teghut (Table 1), signifying letters *he* and *resh*.

We did not find direct parallels for the remaining letters. Nevertheless, the letter under the dog's right hind leg resembles *het* to some extent, in particular, one of the two versions of *het* on

²¹ This letter is seen as Γ on the coin I.4.

²² The two parts of this letter are seen as separated on coins I.10 (Γ) and I.4 (Γ).

²³ On the coins, the examples of a "free interpretation" of the Aramaic letter-forms, the variety of the letters, errors of various types are especially abundant on the coins of Persis and Sogdiana. See Table 5 and M. Alam, *Nomina propria iranica in nummis* (Wien, 1986), Tabellen.

Artashes's borderstone found in Ishkhanasar and the *het* in the inscription on the bowl found in the sepulchre of Sissian (Table 1).

Though these observations do not allow us to decipher the legend with certitude, however, they afford certain data to put forth a hypothesis for reading. Thus, taking into consideration the previously mentioned interpretations of the two or three letters, we find it possible to read the word as 𐤅𐤒𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏 (𐤅𐤒𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏), 'rthšs, Artashes.

The name of Artashes is found in the following versions of writing on the Aramaic borderstones discovered in Armenia:

𐤅𐤒𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏	'rthšsy – Karmir, HMA No. 40 ²⁴
𐤅𐤒𐤏𐤏𐤏	['r]thšsy – Kznut ²⁵
𐤅𐤒𐤏𐤏𐤏	['r]rthš[sy] – Ishkhanasar ²⁶
𐤅𐤒𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏	'rthšsy MLK – Tsakqar, HMA No. 2005 ²⁷
𐤅𐤒𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏	'rtrksy MLK' – Teghut 1 ²⁸
𐤅𐤒𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏	'rtrksrkss – Teghut 2 ²⁹
𐤅𐤒𐤏𐤏𐤏𐤏	'rthšs – Spitak ³⁰

²⁴ I.M. Diakonov, K.B. Starkova, "The Inscription of Artaxias (Artashes I), the King of Armenia," *Vestnik Drevnej Istorii* 2 (1955), p. 165, fig. 1 (in Russian); K.B. Trever, *Essays on the History of Culture of Ancient Armenia*, Moscow, 1953, p. 163, fig. 31 (in Russian). *Het* is represented in a wrong way here.

²⁵ I.M. Diakonov, K.B. Starkova, *The Inscription of Artaxias...*, p. 166, fig. 2; K.B. Trever, *Essays on the History of Culture...*, p. 163, fig. 32.

²⁶ A.G. Perikhanian, "Aramaic Inscription from Zanguezur," *Patma-Banasirakan Handes*, No. 4 (1965), p. 111, ill. 1-2 (in Armenian).

²⁷ G. Tiratsyan, "The Newly-Found Aramaic Inscription of Artashes I," *Teghekgagir Hasarakakan Gityunneri* 10 (1957), pp. 105-109 (in Armenian); G. Tiratsyan, "The Newly-Found Inscription of Artashes I, the King of Armenia," *Vestnik Drevnej Istorii* 1 (1959) (in Russian).

²⁸ G. Karakhanyan, "Two Newly-Found Aramaic Inscriptions," *Patma-Banasirakan Handes* 3 (1971) (in Armenian); A. Périkhanian, "Les inscriptions arméennes du roi Artachès," *Revue des études arméniennes* 8 (1971), fig. 1.

²⁹ G. Karakhanyan, "Two Newly-Found Aramaic...", A. Périkhanian, "Les inscriptions arméennes...", fig. 2.

³⁰ G. Tiratsyan, "Another Newly-Found Aramaic Inscription of Artashes I," *Patma-Banasirakan Handes* 4 (1977), p. 255 (in Armenian); G. Tiratsyan, "Another Aramaic Inscription of Artashes I, the King of Armenia," *Vestnik Drevnej Istorii* 4 (1980) (in Russian).

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It may be noticed that the name Artashes engraved on the borderstones, except the Teghut examples, has a certain resemblance with the legend on the coins under discussion, but the differences in letter-forms, however, are great. We may propose the following reasons to explain these differences: 1) on the coins, we have letters that underwent changes in the course of time and are the so-called “Armenized” Aramaic scriptures, 2) the distortion of the letters is due to the engraver’s faulty work. Such cases are not exceptions in Aramaic coin legends. As a good example, which is also linked with the name Artashes, we present below the samples of writing the name Ardaḥšhir (Artaxerxes) on the coins of three kings of Persis bearing this name:

𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥	'rtḥštry – Ardaḥšhir I
𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥	'rtḥštry - Ardaḥšhir I
𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦	'rtḥštr MLK' - Ardaḥšhir II
𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦	'rtḥštr MLK' - Ardaḥšhir II
𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦	'rtḥštr MLK' - Ardaḥšhir II
𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦	'rtḥštr MLK - Ardaḥšhir II
𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦	'rtḥštr MLK - Ardaḥšhir II
𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧	'rtḥštry MLK' - Ardaḥšhir III

It is possible to observe in these examples that the same letters appear in such a different way of writing, even in the coins of the same king; one can also note the changes that the letters underwent from Ardaḥšhir I to Ardaḥšhir III, a long period of time from the second half of the 3rd century BC to the first half of the 2nd century AD.

In our opinion, in the peculiarity of the letters, in this case, the first factor can be decisive, namely, the “Armenized” Aramaic alphabet, which, in its turn, could have borne the influence of the engraver’s handwriting as well.

Thus, our first version of deciphering the legend on the coins with the dog type on the reverse is MLK' 'rtḥšs, “king Artashes”. In the other groups, the legible segments in the legend bearing the king’s name leads to a suggestion that they also bear the same legend with some differences in “handwriting”.

Second version

This version may seem paradoxical, but it is not groundless; at least it is worth being mentioned as another hypothesis.

In the collection of Armenian coins of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, there is a copper coin,³¹ with a king's depiction on the obverse, the iconographic and stylistic features of which are close to the king's portrait on the coins under discussion.³² On the reverse is a bird's image standing to the left, holding a palm branch with its right wing. On the left and the right of the bird, there is a distorted, but legible legend in Greek.³³ The words [M]ΕΓΑΛΟΥ and [T]ΙΓΡΑ[ΝΟΥ] are read on the left and on the right correspondingly. From the viewpoint of the material under discussion, the form of writing of the name Tigran is interesting here (Plate 6, *BN*, enlarged photograph), which surprisingly reminds of the writing of the king's name on the coins with the dog's image on the reverse. In particular, noteworthy is the combined form of the letters *gamma* and *ro*, as well as *alpha*, following them without a horizontal line. *Omicron* is written like a crescent-shaped *sigma*. In the word Tigran, besides the above-mentioned features of the letters, after *alpha* up to the branch, there is an incomprehensible sign comprised of three lines, where there should have been the letter *nu*. The ending *OY* is absent, or maybe being written after the branch, did not fit on the flan.

Figuring out the direction our further logic might proceed, the reader may object and point to the Aramaic word *MLK'* read without doubt on the coins. However, bilingual coins were issued in the antique world. In the area concerning us, drachms with Aramaic and Greek inscriptions issued in the second half of the 3rd century BC by Arsaces I, the founder of the Parthian kingdom, may be mentioned.³⁴ After an interval of almost three centuries, in the course of which the writings on the Parthian coins were only in Greek, on the drachms of the 70s AD, Aramaic inscriptions appeared again, first in the form of the two initial letters of the king's name (*Sel. Type 71*), and starting from the year 140, in the form of the formula the "king's name + *MLK'*" (*Sel. Type 82*).

It is particularly remarkable that on the coins of Arsaces I, the word ΑΡΣΑΚΟΥ is written in a beautiful and clear Greek "handwriting", and the four-lettered Aramaic word appears in a certain difference of writing on two issues.³⁵ On the Parthian drachms of the 2nd century AD, the Aramaic intermission in the legend on the reverse was made in legible letters, while the larger Greek segment was not legible any more, it was just a formal imitation of the Greek inscription. Thus, it may be concluded that, in the first case, the word in Aramaic was engraved by a Greek master not proficient in that language, and the dies for the drachms of the 2nd century AD were made by Parthian engravers who already did not know the Greek alphabet.

The legend on a coin had a legal function: for instance, the legend in the possessive case ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΤΙΓΡΑΝΟΥ [(coin) of king Tigran] shows to whom the coin belonged, who issued it and who protected its legal circulation. However, for the legends of a significant part of the Artaxiad copper coins, issued during the last two decades of the 1st century BC, it is more suitable to use deciphering than reading the word, as in many cases, the greater part of the legend is outside

³¹ BN 1617. We are grateful to Dominique Gerin to have put the gypsum copy of that coin at our disposal.

³² The king's tiara is high and narrow, as it is on the coins with the images of a bee, bird and male head on the reverse; the execution is rather crude. On the comparatively well-preserved examples of this issue, it is seen, however, that the king is beardless; the neck piece, the ear flap and the bands of the diadem hanging at the back of the head are depicted in a different way.

³³ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ/ΤΙΓΡΑΝΟΥ; however not a single example is known to me, where the legend is placed entirely.

³⁴ D. Sellwood, *An Introduction to the Coinage of Parthia* (London, 1980), Types 3 and 4, pp. 23-24.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

the flan, there are degenerated letters and errors. The principal function of the legend, though not entirely, had significantly lost its role and obtained rather a ritual-formal nature; instead, the significance of the pictorial part had increased and now occupied a greater area on the reverse field. It is true that the king's name and titles were engraved on the die, but on the coins struck, they fitted only partially, and some words were completely off flan. The full legend was supposed to be there, but it was never present in its entirety. By the way, the same process could be observed in the legends of Parthian copper coins in which, by the beginning of the 1st century AD, long legends disappeared altogether from the copper coins.³⁶ Together with the tendency of an obvious indifference towards the legends on the Armenian and Parthian copper coins during the last two decades of the 1st century BC, however, this traditional element in the design of the reverse was preserved, not having the previous significance. In Armenia this tendency was interrupted by the minting of copper coins with the portraits of Tigran IV and Erato and Tigran V and Augustus, which had easily read circular legends in Greek on both sides. But they became the last issues of the Artaxiads.

Returning to the coins under discussion, let us remind that on the coins with the dog's image the legend is placed on the reverse, as it was accepted in the Hellenistic coinage in general, and in the Artaxiad coinage, in particular. While in the other three groups, we observe an occurrence not typical of the Artaxiad coinage: the legend is placed on both sides of the king's portrait on the obverse and not on the reverse. This also shows that these coins were not regular and usual issues, but had appeared in some extraordinary historical circumstances.

The context of tendencies just discussed, particularly the noticeable indifference shown by the minting authority and executors of the coinage towards the legends on the last coins of the 1st century BC, permits us putting forward the following hypothesis. Though the Aramaic word *MLK'* is confidently read on several examples, the same cannot be said about the other word, which in the appearance of the letters and style is also like the Aramaic legend. With the presence of the word *MLK'*, it is logical to suppose that the king's name should also have been written in Aramaic. It is known, however, that the Parthians had used the so-called heterographic script, which is abundantly evidenced in the texts written on the fragments of clay vessels found in Nisa. These texts being written in Aramaic letters, have such moulded forms of words and expressions that are incompatible with the Aramaic grammar, and in reality are Aramaic heterographies read in Parthian. These documents present one of the stages of transferring from the Aramaic language of the Achemenid court to Iranian writing with the use of Aramaic heterograms. In this period, the Parthian writing – Pehlevi – took shape, which is well known especially owing to Sasanian records.³⁷

In the light of this phenomenon and the above-mentioned arguments, it is not excluded that the king's name can represent a heterogram or an ideogram in distorted Greek on the coins under discussion. This means that the population that used these coins, the prevailing part of which did not know Greek or Aramaic, was well acquainted with the form of the Greek writing of the

³⁶ D. Sellwood, *An Introduction...*, Types 57, 58, etc.

³⁷ The Nisa texts are mostly documents referring to an initial count-record of the court's wine-house, which, as a rule, contained a number of petrified Aramaic formulas. In the texts, there is a significant quantity of words, written in Iranian (among them verb forms), also Aramaic verb forms with Iranian endings (sound constituents). I.M. Diakonov, V.A. Livshitz, *Documents from Nisa, in the 1st Century BC. Preliminary Results*, Moscow, 1960, p. 30-32 (in Russian); I.M. Diakonov, V.A. Livshitz, "The Parthian Royal Economy in Nisa in the 1st Century BC," *Vestnik Drevnej Istorii* 2, (1960, pp. 15-16 (in Russian).

king's name on the regularly issued coins of Tigran II, Tigran III and Tigran IV and could have guessed by that "ideogram" that those were coins of the king bearing the name of Tigran.

We tend to give more preference to the first hypothesis; however, not being fully confident in the matter of deciphering the king's name, we decided not to neglect the second hypothesis as well, for which, as seen, there are also grounds, pending the discovery of new examples with better preserved legends, which will clarify the problem.

The attribution of the coins

Taking into consideration the tendencies of development of Artaxiad coinage, the coins under discussion may be dated from not earlier than the 20's BC in their iconographic, paleographical, stylistic, metrological features and fabric. Proceeding from the proposed hypotheses of reading the king's name, the coins may be attributed to Artashes II,³⁸ in one case, and Tigran III or Tigran IV, in the other.

Tigran IV does not seem to be the best candidate as the iconographic and stylistic differences in his portraits and those of our king are great. Based on the above-mentioned peculiarities of the depiction of the ear flap, which are typical of portraits of Tigran IV only, we could, perhaps, halt on the latter's candidacy. The fact that the king is bearded (as distinct from Tigran III) speaks in favour of Tigran IV; and so does the fact that coins small in weight are especially abundant among the coins attributed to Tigran IV.

There is another circumstance that is essential in the attribution of coinage. Prior to the appearance of these new types, we had single examples representing two issues of Artashes II from archeological excavations in Artashat.³⁹ At the same time with the coins under discussion, new examples of these two issues of Artashes II, their number now exceeding two dozens, appeared at the "market". We have no exact information, but there are sufficient grounds to suppose that issues under discussion, coins issued by Artashes II and, what is particularly noteworthy, unissued copper flans (pre-fabrics) of the similar dimensions and weights (similar to Artashes II's cornucopia type) (Plate 6, A), were discovered in the same archeological milieu. Whereas, in the massive "release to the numismatic market place," there is no coin of Tigran III or Tigran IV. Taking these data into account as well, the probability of attributing the coins to Artashes II becomes more weighty.

When and in what circumstances could these issues have appeared? If not to answer these questions but to outline their answers, let us recall the political situation in Armenia, in the few decades at the end of the 1st century BC and at the beginning of the 1st century AD. Revolts, murders of kings, uncompromising struggle among the aspirants to power and forces assisting

³⁸ Those coins cannot be attributed to Artashes I, as in the iconography, style, designing and fabric, they do not conform with the typical regularities of coinage carried out in the sphere of the Seleucid influence in the 2nd century BC. It is not possible to attribute them to Artashes III either, this time proceeding from the historico-political realities. Zenon-Artashes was a Roman henchman who ruled for seventeen years under the patronage of Rome. Thus, there is no basis to attribute to him these coins, which not only lack Roman influence, but also are distinguished by distinctly Eastern features.

³⁹ M. Zardaryan, "Exceptional Coins from the Excavations in Artashat, Artashes II," *Money Circulation in Armenia*. Republican Scientific Session, November 21 (Yerevan, 1998), pp. 5-7. R Vardanyan, "A Dated Copper Coin of Artaxias II — Evidence on the Use of the Pompeyan Era in Artaxata," pp. 89-94.

them, Rome's and Parthia's overt interference into Armenia's affairs, foreign kings on Armenia's throne – these are the general characteristics of the era of the Artaxiads' decline.

From the very beginning, Artashes II was the apparent enemy of the Romans, enmity that deepened during the years of his reign. There was also an opposition against Artashes in Armenia on behalf of "other Armenians", as Dio put it, some of them being his relatives (*LIV, 9.4*). These forces received support from Archelaus, king of Cappadocia and Rome's ally (*Josephus, Ant., 105*) and blamed Artashes II in front of the emperor and asked to appoint his brother Tigran who was in Rome, as their king (*Dio, LIV, 9.4*). The Parthians assisted Artashes until the year 20 BC, however, when Phraates IV signed a peace treaty with Augustus and returned captives and standards taken at the wars against Crassus and Antony, the Armenian king remained alone before the external and internal enemies. In the same year, Augustus sent Tiberius to Armenia, possibly joined by Cappadocia's Archelaus (*Josephus, Ant., 105*), to overthrow Artashes from his kingdom and enthrone Tigran. Being informed about the expected assistance, the Armenians opposing Artashes killed the king themselves (*Tacitus, Annales, II.3; Dio, LIV, 9.5*).

Now, we know that in 31/30 BC, reconquering Armenia's throne, Artashes II issued copper coins with Greek legends.⁴⁰ In successive years, the abyss deepening between Rome and Armenia, on the one hand, and close allied relations with Parthia, on the other hand, seem to allow us to explain the reasons of the appearance of this new series of coins.

The years following the death of Tigran III may be considered another convenient moment for the issuing of such coins. In the year 6 BC, Tigran III was no more, and Armenia, according to Dio (*LIV, 9.4*), was estranged. After Tigran's death Augustus gave the tribune's office to Tiberius for five years and handed him the power over Armenia, which was not carried out by him. But it remains unknown how much time passed after Tigran's death and how long Armenia was estranged from Rome.⁴¹ After Tigran III, as written sources evidence, the Armenians opposed and revolted (*Res Gestae Divi Augusti, 25-32; Dio, LV, 10-18*) and the Parthians supported them (*Dio, LV, 10-18*). Under these conditions, Tigran IV, who enjoyed the support of the Parthians and was enthroned by the Armenian forces filled with enmity against Rome, could have issued coins; or coins could have been issued even by any self-proclaimed king called Artashes, who had come to the arena in such troubled times.

⁴⁰ M. Zardaryan, "Exceptional Coins...", R Vardanyan, "A Dated Copper Coin of Artaxias II..."

⁴¹ The date of Tigran III's death is accepted to be the year 8 BC, however, what is it based on? H. Manandyan, *Works*, vol. 1 (Yerevan, 1977), pp. 289-290. "The year of the death of Tigran III is not certain. It should be said that after Artashes II, such a great mess reigns in the chronology referring to his successors that the years of their reign may be defined only approximately." All the authors expressing themselves about the last Artaxiads, including H. Manandyan, accept the chronology proposed in Cambridge Ancient History. See Y. Manandyan, op. cit., pp. 290-298; G.K. Sargsyan, "Armenia in the Period of Artavazd II and his Successors," *The History of the Armenian People*, vol. 1 (Yerevan, 1971), pp. 631-634.

Table 1.

	Katmir	Kzmit	Tsakgar	Spatak	Ishkhonavar	Teghut 1	Teghut 2	Sisun (bowl)	Garni
Յ	Կ		ԿԿ	ԿԿ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ
B	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	ԿԿ	ԿԿ	Կ	Կ
G									Զ
D	Կ		Կ	Կ		Կ	Կ		
H						Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ
W	Կ		Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ		Կ
Z	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ
Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	
Կ				Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	
Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	ԿԿ	ԿԿ	Կ	Կ
K	Կ	Կ	ԿԿ	Կ	Կ	ԿԿ	ԿԿ	ԿԿ	Կ
L	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ
M	Կ		Կ	Կ	Կ	ԿԿ	Կ	Կ	Կ
N	Կ	Կ	ԿԿ	ԿԿ	Կ	ԿԿ	ԿԿ	Կ	
S	Կ	Կ	Կ			ԿԿ	Կ	Կ	Կ
Կ									
P					Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	
Տ									
Q	Կ		ԿԿ	Կ	Կ	ԿԿ	ԿԿ	Կ	
R	Կ	Կ	ԿԿ	Կ	Կ	ԿԿ	ԿԿ	Կ	Կ
Տ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	
Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	Կ	ԿԿ	ԿԿ	Կ	



R. Vardanyan and K. Vardanyan, Newly-Found Groups of Artaxiad Copper Coins



R. Vardanyan and K. Vardanyan, Newly-Found Groups of the Artaxiad Copper Coins



I.16 (3.5 x)



II.4 (3.5 x)



III.9 (3 x)



IV.18 (2.5 x)



R. Vardanyan and K. Vardanyan, Newly-Found Groups of the Artaxiad Copper Coins

METROLOGY OF COPPER COINAGE OF THE ARTAXIADS OF ARMENIA

Introduction

Since the publication of the *Silver Coinage of Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia*¹ and *Metrology of Cilician Armenian Coinage*,² occasionally we have received requests to consider publishing a revised book on the copper coins of the Armenian Artaxiads. The main argument for this was the discovery of some new material.

In Paul Z. Bedoukian's *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia*,³ and our *Armenian Coins and Their Values*,⁴ the copper coins of the Artaxiad Dynasty are treated very extensively as a typological study. However, neither of these books considered presenting a detailed metrological study.

Unfortunately, the copper coin metrology is not as simple as the silver coinage which mostly consists of tetradrachms and drachms. Based on available data in this metrology work, for the same copper coin design the weight varies very extensively. For example, the copper coin with Tyche design and ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΤΙΓΡΑΝΟΥ legend, the weight of one of them is 10.39 grams, more than four times heavier than the lightest which is 2.42 grams.

E. T. Newell,⁵ has a very interesting discussion on the subject of copper denominations. Based on his observation, Newell concluded that if the heaviest weight is 16 grams, the next lighter denominations are 8 and 4 grams. He *arbitrarily* called them 4 chalci, 2 chalci, and 1 chalcus. It is interesting to note that the basic unit is 1 chalcus; the next unit is 2 chalci, twice the weight of 1 chalcus; the third unit is 4 chalci, twice the weight of 2 chalci. If the weight falls below 1 chalcus, then it is called 1/2 chalcus.

In *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia* Paul Z. Bedoukian attempted to classify copper coins according to denomination. Based on a comparative ratio similar to Newell, Bedoukian arbitrarily adopted a similar system for the Artaxiad⁶ coppers.

While classifying a hoard of copper coins,⁷ we reprinted this system that Bedoukian had devised:

¹ Y. T. Nercessian, *Silver Coinage of Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia* (Los Angeles, 2006), 212 pp., 96 pls. where metrology of silver coins are treated extensively. Tigranes II the Great, pp. 134-140; Artavasdes II, pp. 156-157; Artaxias II and Artavasdes IV, p. 162.

² Y. T. Nercessian, *Metrology of Cilician Armenian Coinage* (Los Angeles, 2007), 161 pp.

³ Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia* (London, 1978), 81 pp., 8 pls.

⁴ Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Their Values* (Los Angeles, 1995), 254 pp., 48 pls.

⁵ E. T. Newell, *The Coinage of the Eastern Seleucid Mints* (reprint, New York, 1978), pp. 270-274.

⁶ Bedoukian, CAA, pp. 44-45.

⁷ Y. T. Nercessian, "A Hoard of Copper Coins of Tigranes II," *Armenian Numismatic Studies*, (Los Angeles, 2000), pp. 55-72, pls. 24-25; reprinted from *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Series I, Vol. XXI (1995), No. 1, pp. 3-14, pl. I.

Metrology of Copper Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia

6.30 (6.01) - 8.00 (12.00)	grams = 4	chalci
3.90 (3.81) - 5.10 (6.00)	grams = 2	chalci
2.80 (1.91) - 3.60 (3.80)	grams = 1	chalcus
1.00 (1.00) - 1.50 (1.90)	grams = 1/2	chalcus

Once a person looks at these numbers, immediately he would observe that there is a gap between 4 and 2 chalci denominations (6.30 to 5.10 grams) and others. In preparation of metrological tables, we have numerous coins weighing between these limits. In order to resolve these problems, arbitrarily once again, we added definite limits which would make the classification into different denominations detached from guesswork. These finite limits which we followed in segregating into noted chalcus groups are given in parentheses.

Data compiled in the *Metrology of Copper Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia* was extracted from Bedoukian's *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia*, author's collection, History Museum of Armenia holdings, all other published scholarly works, sale and auction catalogues and private collections. If a published source lacked at least the weight on a particular coin, it was not utilized in our tabulation. Very rare coins and their place of preservation were noted for posterity. Having this in mind, data tabulated in this work should not be construed as the total coinage of a given ruler. In fact, the data catalogued here could represent a small fraction of total coins struck by that particular ruler of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia.

In the end of each ruler's coin denomination of a design type, calculated averages of weight and diameter are given. At the end of each design type a bar chart displays the coin weight versus the count. At the end of each ruler's coinage, for each design type, total coin average is tabulated and summarized which is utilized to chart the average weights. The average of diameter and die axis orientation are only tabulated and not charted.

To Dr. Ruben Vardanyan, curator and director of Numismatics Section of the History Museum of Armenia, Erevan, and also my friend Levon Saryan as well as collectors Karen Vardanyan and Hacob Mkrtchian I would like express my thanks for providing me metrological data of their coins.

Y. T. NERCESSIAN

ABBREVIATIONS

- AA—A. Aivazian coll.
- AC&B—Y. T. Nercessian, Armenian Coins and Books [AC&B], *Bulletin* 2 (1973), 3 (1973), 4 (1973/4), 5 (1975), 6 (1976), 7 (1977), 8 (1978), 9 (1979), 10 (1980), 11 (1985), 12 (1986), 13 (1989), 14 (1990), 15 (1991), 16 (1992), 17 (1994), 18 (1996), 19 (1998), 20 (2001), 21 (2001), 25 (2003), 26 (2004), 29 (2006), 31 (2008), Pico Rivera, California.
- ACV—Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Their Values* [ACV]. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, *Special Publication*, No. 8, 1995.
- AD—*Asbed Donabedian Collection*. Spink & Son, Ltd. "Ancient and Medieval Coins from the Collection of Professor Asbed Donabedian (1923-1993)," *Coin Auction 102: Ancient, Foreign and English Coins and Commemorative Medals*. London: March 1994, pp. 12-32.
- ADArtxl—Asbed Donabedian, "A Copper Coin of Artaxias I: The Founder of the Aartaxiad Dynasty," *Haigazian Armenological Review*, Vol. II (1971), pp. 135-143 (in Armenian).
- ADArtz—Asbed Donabedian, "The Coins of the Last Rulers of the Aartaxiad Dynasty of Armenia," *Haigazian Armenological Review*, Vol. I (1970), pp. 74-92 (in Armenian).
- ADTII-TIII—Asbed Donabedian, "Unique and Unpublished Coins of Tigranes II and Tigranes III," *Haigazian Armenological Review*, Vol. VII (1979), pp. 131-140 (in Armenian).
- ADTII-TIV—Asbed Donabedian, "Unique and Unpublished Coins of Tigranes II and Tigranes IV," *Haigazian Armenological Review*, Vol. VIII (1980), pp. 249-258 (in Armenian).
- AG—A. Gevorkyan.
- ANJ—*Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Series I.
- ANS—American Numismatic Society coll.
- Ariadne—Auction 15 December 1982, 7 December 1982, 9 December 1983, New York City.
- ArtII—Ruben Vardanyan, *Coinage of Artavasdes II - Արտավազդ II-ի դրամները* (in Armenian), (Yerevan, 2004).
- AshM—Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
- Auctiones—Basel
- Auctions*—Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coin Auctions* (Los Angeles, 2006).
- Aufhäuser—Bankhaus H. Aufhäuser, Munich
- BG—Berj M. Garabetian, "Monnaie de Bronze Inédite de Tigrane Le Grand, Frappéea Démétrias," Congrès International de Numismatique (Paris, 6-11 July 1953), pp. 133-136.
- BM—British Museum coll.
- BN or BNF—Bibliothèque Nationale de France coll.
- BS—Berj Sabbaghian, *Numismatic Inquiries* (Beirut, 1986), 288 pp. (in Armenian).
- CAA—Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia* (London, 1978).
- CH—Ch. Hajinian coll.
- CNGRev.—Classical Numismatic Group (CNG) Fixed Price List.
- CNG—Classical Numismatic Group Inc., (originally located in Quarryville, PA and London) Lancaster, PA and London, *Auction* 14 (20 March 1991), 15 (5 June 1991), 20 (25 March 1992), 27 (29 September 1993), 30 (11 June 1994), 33 (15 March 1995), 36 (5-6 December 1995), 39 (18 September 1996), 43 (24 September 1997), 46 (24 June 1998), 51 (15 September 1999), 60 (22 May 2002), Lancaster, Pennsylvania. *Auction*

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- CS4—Credit Suisse, *Auction 4: Important Ancient & Mediaeval Coins Including an Armenian & Judaean Collection*. Berne: 3 December 1985.
- Demirjian—T. Demirjian, *Catalogue II* (1974), *III* (1974), *V* (1976), *VI* (1977). Ridge-field, CT (originally Riverdale, NY)
- EJ—“Numismatic Collection of Emil [Edward] Joseph,” Y. T. Nercessian, *Auction I: Mail Bid Auction*. Pico Rivera, California: 2 May 1997.
- Elsen—Jean Elsen, s.a., Brussels
- Er—Erevan, History Museum of Armenia coll.
- FK—Frank L. Kovacs, San Mateo, California
- Foss—Clive Foss, “The Coinage of Tigranes the Great: Problems, Suggestions and a New Find,” *Numismatic Chronicle*, Vol. 146 (1986), pp. 19-66.
- FS—Sternberg, Frank. *Auktion XXII*.
- FS—Sternberg, Frank. *Auktion XXII*. Zurich: 20-21 November 1989.
- G
- GD—Georges Depeyrot coll.
- Glasgow—George MacDonald, *Catalogue of Greek Coins in the Hunterian Collection*, University of Glasgow (Glasgow, 1905).
- GM—G. Matossian coll.
- Gorny—Giessener Münzhandlung, Dieter Gorny, Gorny and Mosch GmbH, Munich. 46 (30 October 1989), 50 (24 September 1990), 60(5 October 1992), 78 (13 June 1996), 81 (3 March 1997), 122 (10-11 March 2003), 130 (8-9 March 2004), 134 (11-12 October 2004), 138 (7-8 March 2005), 147 (6-7 March 2006), 160 (8-9 October 2007), 165 (17-18 march 2008).
- HACII. Part II of HAC.
- HAC—A *Hoard of Copper Coins of Tigranes the Great and a Hoard of Artaxiad Coins*. (Los Angeles, 1991).
- HE—Hermitage Museum coll. in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- HM—H. Mkrtchian.
- Houghton—Arthur Houghton, *Coins of the Seleucid Empire from the Collection of Arthur Houghton* (New York, 1983).
- JC—J. Christianian coll.
- JG—Jack Guevrekian coll.
- KB—K. Baghdadian coll.
- KK—K. Kalajian coll.
- Künker—Fritz Rudolph Künker Münzhandlung; *Katalog 97* (7-8 March 2005), *115* (25-27 September 2006), Osnabrück, Germany:
- KV—Karen Vardanyan.
- Lanz—Hubert Lanz, Numismatik Lanz München. *Auktion 14* (18 April 1978), *28* (7 May 1984), *50* (27 November 1989), *56* (13 May 1991), *78* (25 November 1996), *80* (26 November 1997), *117* (24 November 2003).
- LeRider—G. Le Rider, “Monnaies grecques récemment acquises par le Cabinet de Paris,” *Revue Numismatique*, Ser. VI, Vol. XI (1969), pp. 16-18, pl. I.
- Lindgren—Henry C. Lindgren and Frank L. Kovacs, *Ancient Bronze Coins of Asia Minor and the Levant* (San Mateo, California, 1985).
- Lindgren III—Henry C. Lindgren, *Ancient Greek Bronze Coins from the Lindgren Collection* (San Francisco, 1993).
- LS—L. A. Saryan collection.
- Malter—Joel L. Malter and Co., Encino, CA, *Auction XXIII* (23-25 September 1982).

- MA—"Armenian Coin Auction of Dr. Mesrop Abgarians," Y. T. Necessian, *Auction III: Mail Bid Auction*. Pico Rivera, California: 2 June 1998.
- MB—Munzkabinett collection, Berlin Museum.
- MD—Mousheghian, Anahit and Depeyrot, Georges. *Hellenistic and Roman Armenian Coinage (1st C. B.C.- 1st C. A.D.) - Հելլենիստական և հռոմեական դարաշրջանի հայկական մետաղադրամներ (Մ.թ.ա. 1դ.-Մ.թ. 1դ.)*. Wetteren, Belgium: Moneta, No. 15, 1999, 256 pp., 8 pls. Bilingual in English and Armenian.
- Mitchiner—Michael Mitchiner, *Oriental Coins and Their Values; The World of Islam*.
- MM12—Auctiones AG. *Auktion 12: Münzen der antike, des mittelalters und der neuzeit*. Basel: 29-30 September 1981.
- MP—Manuel Panossian Coll. Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. *Auction 61* (25 September 2002), Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- Müller—Heinz-W. Solingen, Germany
- Münz Zentrum—Köln, *Auktion 61* (18 March 1987), (11 Sept. 1996).
- Newell—Edward T. Newell, *Late Seleucid Mints in Ake-Ptolemais and Damascus* (New York, 1939).
- NFA—Numismatic Fine Arts International, Inc., *Auction 7* (Los Angeles, 6 December 1979).
- NH—Kh. A. Mousheghian, *Monetary Circulation in Armenia* (Numismatics in the History of Armenia) (Yerevan, 1983) (in Armenian with summaries in English and Russian).
- NisibeHoard—Henri Seyrig, "Trésor Monétaires de Nisibe," *Revue Numismatique*, Series V, Vol. XVII (1955), pp. 87-88, 111-128, pl. I.
- NJ—Peus, Busso. *Auktion, Katalog 340: Sammlung Nicholas V. Jamgochian*. Frankfurt: November 1994.
- NK—S. Boutin, *Collection N[adia] K[apamadjian]: Monnaies des Empires de Byzance ... Monnaies de l'Arménie Artaxiate et de l'Arménie Cilicienne*. Maastricht: 1983.
- NumARSClas—Numismatica Ars Classica A.G., Zurich
- o/s-c/m—Y. T. Necessian and L. A. Saryan, "Overstruck and Countermarked Coins of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia," *ANJ*, Ser. I, Vol. XXII (June-September 1996), Nos. 2-3, pp. 23-62, pls. I-VI; also in *Studies* (Los Angeles, 2000), pp. 150-206, pls. 37-46.
- PB—Paul Z. Bedoukian coll.
- Pegasi—Pegasi, *Buy or Bid Sale Catalog 110* (16 November 1998), 134 (2 August 2006), Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Peus—Busso Peus Nachfolger, Frankfurt.
- RSA—E. Babelon, *Les Rois de Syrie, d'Arménie et de Commagène* (Paris, 1890).
- RV—Ruben Vardanyan and Karen Vardanyan, "Newly Discovered Groups of Artaxiad Copper Coins" - "Արտաշեսյան պղնձե դրամների նորայայտ խմբեր," *Handes Amsorya*, Vol. CXVIII (2005), Nos. 1-12, pp. 75-120, 2 pls. (in Armenian).
- SCA—*Silver Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia* (Los Angeles, 2006).
- Schulten—Munzhandlung Schulten + Co. GmbH. Cologne: 15-17 October 1990.
- SNC—*Spink Numismatic Circular*, Vol. LXXXIX (Sept. 1981), No. 11; XCVII (July-August 1989), No. 6; C (April 1992), No. 3; C June 1992), No. 5, London
- SNS [I]—Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Selected Numismatic Studies [I]* (Los Angeles, 1981), 570 pp.
- SNS II—Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Selected Numismatic Studies II* (Los Angeles, 2003), 376 pp., 61 pls.
- SNS5H—Paul Z. Bedoukian, "Five Hoards Containing Coins of the Artaxiads of Armenia," *SNS* [I], pp. 142-154, reprinted from *Revue des Études Arméniennes*, New Series, Vol. V (1968), pp. 279-287.

- SomeUnpublish—Paul Z. Bedoukian, "Some Unpublished Coins of the Artaxiads of Armenia," SNSII, pp. 70-77, reprinted from *Revue des Études Arméniennes*, New Series, Vol. XVIII (1983), pp. 421-433.
- Sternberg—Frank Sternberg, Zurich
- Studies—Y. T. Necessian, *Armenian Numismatic Studies* (Los Angeles, 2000), 678 pp., 96 pls.
- Tekin—O. Tekin. "The Coins from Üçtepe with a Problematic Emission of Tigranes the Younger," *Epigraphica Anatolica*, Vol. 20 (1992), pp. 43-54.
- TG—Turan Gökyıldırım, "An Artaxiad Coin Hoard from Turkey (1991)" - "Türkiye'den Artaxiad Hanedani'na Ait Bir Define (1991)," *The Turkish Numismatic Society Publications* (Istanbul, 2005).
- TIUnpub— Y. T. Necessian, "An Unpublished Coin of Tigranes I," *Studies*, pp. 1-11, pl. 1; reprinted from ANJ, Vol. XVII (June 1991), No. 2, pp. 13-21.
- Tk—Münzauktion Tkalec AG (Zurich, 2001), 463.
- TP—T. Petian.
- UnpublishPB—Paul Z. Bedoukian, "Some Unpublished Coins of the Artaxiads of Armenia," SNS [I,] pp. 269-276; reprinted from *Near Eastern Numismatics, Iconography, Epigraphy and History* (Beirut, 1974), pp. 27-34.
- VA—V. Abcarians coll., formerly Mesrop Abgarians coll.
- Vecchi—Italo Vecchi, London
- Vinchon—Jeann Vinchon, Paris
- VeM—Mekhitarist Congregation Museum collection in Venice.
- VY—Viken Yegparian
- v—Variant or variety.
- WiM—Mekhitarist Congregation Museum collection in Vienna.
- WM—William Maksudian.
- YNCat—*Catalogue of Armenian Coins Collected by Y. T. Necessian* (Los Angeles, 2008)
- YNDamasc—Y. T. Necessian, "Tigranes the Great of Armenia and the Mint of Damascus," *Studies*, pp. 95-109, pls. 26-27; reprinted from ANJ, Vol. XXII (March 1996), No. 1, pp. 3-12, pl. I (Armenian summary).
- YN—Y. T. Necessian coll.
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Note: CAA108PB = CAA or the first abbreviated letters refer to the publication, 108 or the numerals refer to the corpus or catalogue number, and the PB or the last abbreviated letters refer to the private or museum collection.

Tigranes I (123-96 B.C.)

No.	CAA ACV	Metrological Data wt.-diam.-die axis	Source
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Tigranes I (123-96 B.C.)

Standing Figure

2 Chalci

1	5	5.12g	CAA5PB
2	5	5.11g-17.7ø-1h	Er19031/2
3	5	4.07g-16ø-10h	NisibeHoard5a
4	20	4.06g-16ø	CNG36-539
5	20	3.98g-17ø	CNG46-661

Avg. = $22.34 \div 5 = 4.47$ g weight

Avg. = $66.7 \div 4 = 16.68$ mm diameter

1 Chalcus

6	5	3.75g-11h	HACII17
7	5	3.68g-17ø-10h	NisibeHoard5b
8	5	3.45g	CAA5JG
9	5	2.75g	CAA5PB
10	5	2.54g	CAA5PB

Avg. = $16.17 \div 5 = 3.23$ g weight

Avg. = 17mm diameter

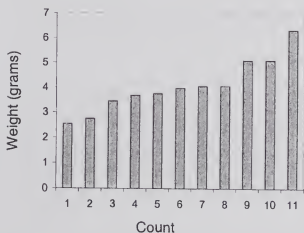
o/s

4 Chalcus

11	5	6.34g-18ø	o/s-c/m1BN
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Avg. = 6.34g weight

Avg. = 18mm diameter



Ch. 1.1, Standing Figure

No.	CAA ACV	Metrological Data wt.-diam.-die axis	Source
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Tot.Avg. = $44.85 \div 11 = 4.08$ g weight

Tot.Avg. = $101.7 \div 6 = 16.95$ mm diameter

Tot. die axis ornt. 2/10h, 1/11h, 1/1h

Zeus Nicephorous Seated

4 Chalci

1	22	7.65g-19ø	TIUnpubAB
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Avg. = 7.65g weight

Avg. = 19mm diameter

2 Chalci

2	4	5.82g-18ø-12h	NisibeHoard2
3	4	5.71g-19.0ø-1h	Er19992/76
4	4	5.48g-16ø	CNG20-380
5	4	5.07g	CAA4PB
6	3	4.31g-15ø	CNG27-4
7	4	4.27g-17ø-12h	CAA4BM

Avg. = $30.71 \div 6 = 5.12$ g weight

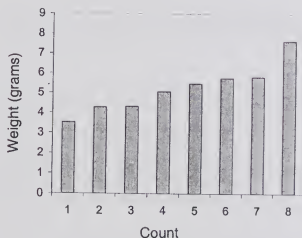
Avg. = $85 \div 5 = 17$ mm diameter

1 Chalcus

8	22	3.52g-18ø	CNG36-540
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Avg. = 3.52g weight

Avg. = 18mm diameter



Ch. 1.2, Zeus Nicephorous

No.	CAA ACV	Metrological Data wt.-diam.-die axis	Source
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Tot.Avg. = $41.88 \div 8 = 5.24$ g weight
 Tot.Avg. = $122 \div 7 = 17.43$ mm diameter
 Tot. die axis ornt. 2/12h, 1/1h

Nike with Wreath4 Chalci

1	23	6.75g-18ø-1h	YNCat7
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Avg. = 6.75g weight
 Avg. = 18mm diameter

2 Chalci

2	6	4.72g	MD94BN
3	6	4.72g-18ø-12h	Er19035/2
4	6	4.64g-18.5ø-1h	Er19585/47
5	6	4.64g	CAA6JG
6	6	4.54g-18ø	CNG46-662
7	6	4.37g	CAA6BN
8	6	4.00g	HACII18
9	6	3.99g	TigIUnpub
10	6	3.85g-19ø-12h	NisibeHoard4d
11	6	3.84g	CAA6PB

Avg. = $43.31 \div 11 = 3.94 \leq$ g weight
 Avg. = $73.5 \div 4 = 18.38$ mm diameter

1 Chalcus

12	6	3.71g-18ø-12h	NisibeHoard4c
13	23	3.67g-18ø	EJ1

Avg. = $15.07 \div 4 = 3.77$ g weight
 Avg. = $36 \div 2 = 18$ mm diameter

c/m A

2 Chalci

14	6	5.00g-18ø-10h o/s-c/m212BN	
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Avg. = 5.00g weight
 Avg. = 18mm diameter

o/s

2 Chalci

15	6	4.36g-17ø-12h	o/s-c/m4BN
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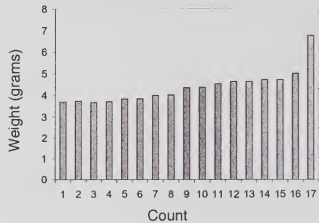
Avg. = 4.36g weight
 Avg. = 17mm diameter

1 Chalcus

16	6	3.73g-19ø-12h	o/s-c/m2BN
17	6	3.70g-18ø-12h	o/s-c/m3BN

No.	CAA ACV	Metrological Data wt.-diam.-die axis	Source
-----	------------	---	--------

Avg. = $7.43 \div 2 = 3.72$ g weight
 Avg. = $37 \div 2 = 18.50$ mm diameter



Ch. 1.3, Nike with Wreath

Tot.Avg. = $74.43 \div 17 = 4.38$ g weight
 Tot.Avg. = $199.5 \div 11 = 18.14$ mm diameter
 Tot. die axis ornt. 1/10h, 6/12h, 2/1h

Victory with Palm-Branch4 Chalci

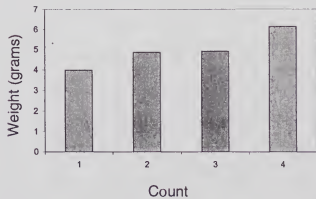
1	24	6.14g-18ø-11h	YNCat8
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Avg. = 6.14g weight
 Avg. = 18mm diameter

2 Chalci

2	23v	4.91g-18ø	CNG36-541
3	23v	4.86g-18ø	CNG51-752
4	24	3.99g-18ø-1h	BN

Avg. = $13.76 \div 3 = 4.59$ g weight
 Avg. = $54 \div 3 = 18$ mm diameter



Ch. 1.4, Victory with Palm-Branch

No. CAA Metrological Data Source
ACV wt.-diam.-die axis

Tot.Avg. = $19.99 \div 4 = 4.98g$ weight
Tot.Avg. = $172 \div 4 = 18mm$ diameter
Tot. die axis ornt. 1/11h, 1/1h

Tree

2 Chalci

1 26 4.65g-16ø CNG36-542
Avg. = 14.65g weight
Avg. = 16mm diameter

1 Chalcus

2 3 3.66g-18ø CNG27-4
3 3 2.83g HACII16
Avg. = $6.49 \div 2 = 3.25g$ weight
Avg. = 18mm diameter

c/m APK

2 Chalci

4 3 4.52g-19ø-12h Tekin3
5 3 4.36g-18.4ø-12h Er19585/23
6 3 4.36g-20ø-12h Tekin5
7 3 4.27g-18.4ø-11h Er19031/1
8 3 4.27g-20ø CAA3PB
9 26 4.04g-17ø CNG51-752
10 3 4.03g-17ø-12h FK2

Avg. = $29.85 \div 7 = 4.23g$ weight
Avg. = $129.8 \div 7 = 18.54mm$ diameter

1 Chalcus

11 20 3.79g-17ø CNG46-660
12 20 3.77g-20ø CNG46-660

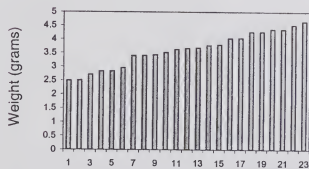
able 1, Number of coins used to calculate the average weights of Tigranes I coppers

Coin Rev. Design	Number of coins	Æ Coin Weight
Standing Figure	11	4.08g
Zeus Nicephorus Seated	8	5.24g
Nike with Wreath	17	4.38g
Victory with Palm-branch	4	4.98g
Tree	23	3.62g
TOTAL	63	

No. CAA Metrological Data Source
ACV wt.-diam.-die axis

1 Chalcus

13 25 3.68g-16ø CNG36-543
14 3 3.62g-18ø-12h TG1
15 3 3.51g-19ø-12h Tekin2
16 3 3.43g-18ø-12h o/s-c/m205BN
17 3 3.40g-20ø-10h Tekin4
18 3 3.39g-18ø CNG27-3
19 20 2.95g-18ø-12h YNCat9
20 3 2.83g CAA3TD
21 3 2.71g-18ø-12h Tekin1
22 3 2.50g-19ø-12h NisbeHoard1
23 3 2.49g-19ø-12h o/s-c/m210BN
Avg. = $42.07 \div 13 = 3.27g$ weight
Avg. = $220 \div 12 = 18.33mm$ diameter



Count

Ch. 1.5, Tree

Tot.Avg. = $83.26 \div 23 = 3.62g$ weight
Tot.Avg. = $383.8 \div 21 = 18.28mm$ diameter
Tot. die axis ornt. 1/10h, 1/11h, 11/12h

Metrology of Copper Coinage of the Artaxiads

Table 2, Number of coins used to calculate the average diameters of Tigranes I coppers

Coin Rev. Design	Number of coins	Æ Coin Diameter
Standing Figure	6	16.95mm
Zeus Nicephorous Seated	7	17.43mm
Nike with Wreath	11	18.14mm
Victory with Palm-branch	4	18mm
Tree	21	18.28mm
TOTAL	49	

Table 3, Number of coins used to calculate the average die axis orientation of Tigranes I cop.

Coin Rev. Design	Number of coins	Æ Die Axis Orientation
Standing Figure	4	2/10h, 1/11h, 1/1h
Zeus Nicephorous Seated	3	2/12h, 1/1h
Nike with Wreath	9	1/10h, 6/12h, 2/1h
Victory with Palm-branch	2	1/11h, 1/1h
Tree	13	1/10h, 1/11h, 11/12h
TOTAL	31	

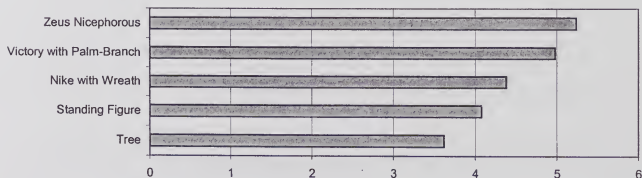


Chart 1.6, Average weights of Tigranes I copper coins (grams)

JACK GUEVREKIAN: IN MEMORIAM

The sudden passing of New York numismatist Jack Guevrekian has left a great void in the ranks of Armenian collectors. Jack was an Armenian time-traveler, gathering souvenirs from his countless forays into the nooks and crannies of Armenian history. His loss will be felt by Armenian and non-Armenian numismatists alike.

Jack became interested in Armenian coins in his early twenties when he received a few as a gift from his father-in-law. He gradually assembled an impressive collection of Armenian coins and paper currency, as well as rare books, postage stamps, and artifacts. Business relationships with dealers in the Middle East and Europe enabled Jack to travel overseas to purchase rare ancient coins for resale. He frequently attended coin shows in New York and Chicago, and developed a reputation as an honest and reliable wholesale supplier to leading dealers in the United States. Jack was always on the lookout for Armenian coins and antiquities, and for more than three decades he was the principal importer of Armenian coins into the USA.

During his career Jack collaborated closely with prominent Armenian numismatic scholars and researchers, including Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian, Yeghia Nercessian, Antranig Poladian, Manuel Panossian, and many others. He served as a mentor to new collectors and generously shared his ideas and discoveries. He often loaned hoards to Dr. Bedoukian who recorded them as aluminum foil impressions, and contributed several articles to the *Armenian Numismatic Journal* and other publications concerning his finds. Realizing that he was only a temporary custodian of these treasures, he wanted others to enjoy the same privilege of ownership. Thus many important items from his collection were dispersed in CNG's Araratian auctions.

I first encountered his name in the mid 1970's through an article on a Cilician Armenian royal ring that Jack wrote for *Ararat* quarterly. We were introduced by the late George Beach of Michigan in 1984. We occasionally conversed by telephone, but did not meet in person until the Chicago International Coin Fair in 1991, when he brought me several important coins. Thus began a friendship that lasted nearly twenty years.

Soon afterward, Jack made it possible for me to acquire several hoards and a number of exceptional items, such as a copy of Father Ghevont Alishan's *Sisouan* (a famous 19th century book on Cilician Armenia), and a small group of Ottoman Armenian paper church tokens. As recently as a few months before his death, he sent me three unusual Armenian seals that will be the topic of future investigations.

At one time or another, Jack was fortunate to own many of the most important Armenian numismatic pieces in existence. Here I will mention just four of these: the Artavasdes II silver tetradrachm (ex-Hunt Collection), a gold half tahegan of King Levon, the unique silver double tram of Gosdantin I, and a silver coronation half tram of King Oshin. All of these are "crème de la crème"—exceptional, superbly preserved coins of extreme rarity and historical importance. He offered me the Artavasdes tetradrachm at a time when it was, sadly, out of my reach, and to this day it remains "the one that got away." Two of the others (the Gosdantin and the Oshin), however, did not get away, and I have Jack to thank for making it possible for me to study and own these gems.

Farewell, good friend. Your efforts to promote Armenian history and culture through numismatics will not be forgotten, and we will be eternally grateful to you for your support and encouragement.

Levon A. Saryan, Ph.D.

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