

# NUMISMATIC COMMENTS

## I

### CEBREN, NOT SIGEUM

The late E. T. Newell's attribution of a group of tetradrachms of Seleucus II and Antiochus Hierax, most of which have the symbol of an owl on the reverse, to the Troad<sup>1</sup> can be confirmed and supplemented by two uncommon bronze coins in the Leake Collection of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

The first of them belongs to a rare issue, the importance of which for Seleucid history and religious policy has already been noticed by M. Rostovtzeff. It answers to the following description:

OBV. Head of a Seleucid king r.; on l., cornucopia.

REV. Double owl; in exergue, corn-ear; above on l. and r. AN TIOXE.

- 1) Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. W. Leake, *Numis. Hell.* (Asiatic Greece), p. 19, 3 (Antiochia Cariae). 1.86 grms.; 12.5 mm. (Plate XIV, 1).
- 2) Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. M. Rostovtzeff, "Le Gad de Dura et Seleucus Nicator," *Mélanges Dussaud* (1939), p. 286, pl. III, 7.
- 3) Hirsch, Cat. XIII (15th May, 1905, Rhousopoulos Collection), no. 3860.

The three coins listed are the only specimens of the series known to me.

A comparison of the obverse dies of this bronze issue with the obverse die of Newell's tetradrachm of Antiochus Hierax (*op. cit.*, pl. LXXVI, 6) makes it evident that the die-cutter of the royal head on the bronze coins was very strongly influenced by the head on the tetradrachm; the two heads are so close in style to each other, in fact, that both might have been engraved by the same individual. Both issues belong, therefore, to the same mint, by reason of style and symbols, somewhat in the same way as Newell's royal tetradrachms (*op. cit.*, nos. 890-895 and 900) of the mint of Seleucia Pieria go together with Newell's municipal bronzes of this town (nos. 896-899 and 901-903), and his royal tetradrachms and stater (nos. 907-909) of Antioch-on-the-Orontes with the municipal bronze coin of the city (no. 910).

Excavators and explorers of Asia Minor after this war will have to keep in mind that a city in the Troad which had the owl and the double-owl of Athena as arms was renamed Antioch in the first half of the third century B.C. and preserved this name until this region was conquered from Antiochus Hierax by the growing power of

<sup>1</sup> *The Coinage of the Western Seleucid Mints* (Numismatic Studies, IV, 1941), pp. 347 f. and plate 76, 3-12. It is my agreeable duty to thank Dr. C. T. Seltman of Queen's College, Cambridge, for discussing with me the stylistic questions of this article.

Pergamon. The Seleucid king on the bronze and on most of the silver issues of this mint is Antiochus II rather than Antiochus Hierax, as Newell has already noticed (*op. cit.*, pp. 392 f.). Newell considered it uncertain whether his issue with the characteristic symbol of the owl on the reverse emanated from Sigeum, Ilium, or Assus, since all three towns had a predilection for the cult of Athena. Newell's preference for the old Athenian colony Sigeum appears, at first sight, to be confirmed by our bronze issue from the same mint, for it is only from the coins of this town that the double-owl is known in the Troad. However, there is another bronze coin in the Fitzwilliam Museum<sup>2</sup> which suggests a different interpretation. It was placed by Colonel Leake next to the first coin mentioned in this note, has the same very characteristic dark green patina, and was therefore probably both acquired and found together with it. This coin belongs to a well-known issue of Antiochia Cebren in the Troad (OBV. Head of Apollo r. REV. Head of ram r.; above, ANTIOXEΩN [Plate XIV, 2]), but it has an owl as a countermark in the center of its obverse, as has another specimen of the same type in the Copenhagen Museum, according to Imhoof-Blumer.<sup>3</sup> This owl countermark makes it possible and in my opinion advisable to connect the mint of Antiochia Cebren with the owl issues from an Antioch mint in the Troad for the existence of which there is no other evidence.

If I am right, the original bronze coins of Antiochia Cebren, a common issue, were struck after the Seleucid conquest of Asia Minor when Cebren was refounded by Antiochus I or II, as the new name of this town implies, and at least some of the earlier inhabitants of this rival of Scepsis returned to their place of origin from Alexandria Troas, the prohibition against a *dioikismos* by the defeated Lysimachus (Strabo, XIII, 597) having become invalid.<sup>4</sup> Later an official change from Apollo to Athena as main city deity found expression in the coinage, first by the countermarking of the image of an owl over the earlier representations of Apollo, and then by an issue of royal Seleucid tetradrachms with the symbol of an owl on the reverse combined with a municipal issue which showed the head of Antiochus II and Athena's double-owl, the distinctive badge of Sigeum.

It is worthy of note in this connection that no autonomous coins of Sigeum have come to us which are later than 300 B.C.<sup>5</sup> and that Strabo informs us (XIII, 595 and 600) that Sigeum had been destroyed and annexed by Ilium before the period of the Roman protectorate of 189 B.C. All this points clearly to a *synoikismos* of refugees

<sup>2</sup> Leake, *Numis. Hell.* (Asiatic Greece), p. 19, 2.

<sup>3</sup> *Zeit. f. Num.*, III, 1876, p. 306.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. *Brit. Mus. Cat. Troad*, p. xx; Imhoof-Blumer, *loc. cit.*, pp. 305 f., and *Kleinasiat. Münzen*, I (1901), pp. 43 f.; Head, *Hist. Num.*<sup>2</sup> (1911), p. 543; V. Tscherikower, *Die hellenistischen Staedtegruendungen von Alexander dem Grossen bis auf die Roemerzeit*, *Philologus*, Suppl. XIX, 1 (1927), p. 16.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. *Brit. Mus. Cat. Troad*, p. xxxiii.

from destroyed Sigeum with the inhabitants of refounded Antiochia Cebren, certainly a small city. We learn from the numismatic evidence that this political change took place under Antiochus II, Seleucus III, or Antiochus Hierax, and that the Seleucid ruler took a personal interest in it. Only excavation will be able finally to prove or disprove this hypothesis; but in the present state of our knowledge it seems more plausible to accept one Antioch in the Troad than two.

## II

## A SELEUCID PRETENDER ANTIOCHUS IN 151/0 B.C.

In the Leake Collection at the Fitzwilliam Museum is a bronze coin which belonged to a certain Mr. Sadler in A.D. 1719 and afterwards to the Earls of Pembroke. It has been noted and discussed by several numismatists during the last two centuries,<sup>6</sup> but has been completely overlooked by historians of antiquity. It is of more than usual interest for Seleucid political history. The following is its description.

OBV. Head of Dionysus r., wreathed with vine leaves.

REV. Filleted thyrsus l.; above and below, [B]AΞΙΛΕΩΞ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ; below on r. between thyrsus and king's name the date ΒΞΡ; above on r. between thyrsus and king's name the monogram Ϙ reversed; all in a wreath of vines.

5.62 grms.; 19 mm. (Plate XIV, 3).

Haym, the founder of Greek numismatics in England, recognized the importance of this coin, which was issued in the name of a Seleucid king Antiochus in the year 162 of the Seleucid era, i. e., 151/0 B.C., and has remained unique to the present time. Our literary and epigraphic sources know only of Demetrius I and Alexander Balas as the Seleucid rulers of this year. The one visible monogram of the reverse of this remarkable coin is identical with that of a mint-magistrate on a group of the latest tetradrachms and drachms of Demetrius I which were struck at Antioch-on-the-Orontes in the same year ΒΞΡ.<sup>7</sup> Style and appearance of our coin similarly point to its attribution to the Seleucid mint of Antioch.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. for this "ghost" coin which has now come to life again N. F. Haym, *Tesoro Britannico* (London, 1719), I, pp. 52 f.; *Numismata Pembrochiana* (London, 1746), II, plate 62, no. 9; J. Chr. Rasche, *Lexicon Universae Rei Numariae Veterum*, I (1785), col. 827, no. 1; T. E. Mionnet, *Description des Médailles Antiques*, Suppl. VIII (Paris, 1837), p. 56, no. 283; Sotheby Catalogue, 31st July, 1848, no. 1160; Leake, *Numis. Hell.* (Kings [London, 1856]), p. 29, no. 10 (Antiochus VI!); G. Macdonald, *Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the Hunterian Collection*, III (Glasgow, 1905), p. 75, note, who gives an erroneous attribution because of Leake's imperfect description. The engravings in *Tesoro Britannico* and *Numismata Pembrochiana* are so well done that they could be used by modern scholars. My thanks are due to the Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Mr. L. C. G. Clarke, for his permission to publish the Fitzwilliam coins in this article.

<sup>7</sup> E. T. Newell, "The Seleucid Mint of Antioch," *American Journal of Numismatics*, LI, 1918, nos. 131 and 133.

We know that it was necessary for Alexander Balas to crush some resistance in this great city after the death of Demetrius I, and therefore Antigonus, probably the eldest son of the defeated king, was put to death.<sup>8</sup> One might suppose that this Antigonus actually was proclaimed king under the dynastic name of Antiochus, but there are other possibilities of interpretation between which it is difficult to decide. Our coin may pertain to an unknown pretender opposed to Demetrius I or Alexander Balas in the unruly year 151/0 B.C. Alternatively, as Haym has already suggested, the sons of Demetrius I may have been proclaimed joint rulers or kings for separate parts of the empire during the short period of confusion between their father's death and the complete occupation of the Seleucid territories by Alexander Balas. In this case we should have to conclude that only our coin showing the name of the youngest son, the later king Antiochus VII Sidetes, would have survived the *damnatio memoriae* of all issues during this conjectural interregnum. In any case Ptolemaic interference could not weaken the legitimate Seleucid house for long. Alexander Balas, the upstart, who had won the kingdom of Seleucus I with foreign help was soon to lose it again to Demetrius II.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Livy, *Periocha libri L.* Cf. B. Niese, *Geschichte der griechischen und makedonischen Staaten seit der Schlacht bei Chaeroneia*, III (Gotha, 1903), pp. 262 f.; E. R. Bevan in *C.A.H.*, VIII (Cambridge, 1930), p. 524.

<sup>9</sup> It is worthy of note that the bronze coin described by Leake, *Numis. Hell.* (Kings), p. 30, no. 9, otherwise a common type, has the usual date FΞP for Demetrius II, i. e., 147/6 B.C. This is the earliest coin of this king known to me; it was issued during his well-known revolt against Alexander Balas, before Ptolemy VI acknowledged the claims of this new pretender.

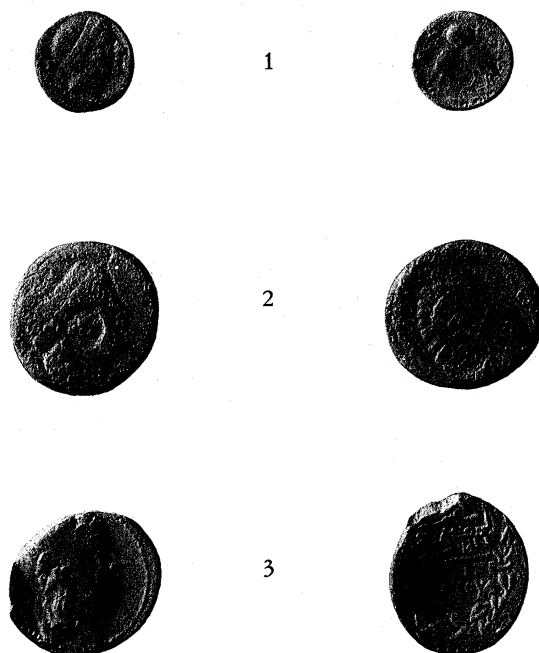


Fig. 9. Bronze Sphinx Attachment. Walters Art Gallery



Fig. 10. Terracotta Sphinx  
After Jacobsthal

HILL: HERA, THE SPHINX?



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