

ONS



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Editor: Mr S. Goron, 74 Outram Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 6XF, UK e-mail: s.goron@blueyonder.co.uk

ONS News

From the Editor

Members in continental Europe should note that Jan Lingen, the Regional Secretary, has a new address. This can be found in the section below on revised addresses and also on the back page.

London Meetings

There will be a meeting at the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday 12 May 2007. As it will be the 150th anniversary of the Indian Mutiny, the theme of the meeting will be "the British Empire in Asia". Talks planned so far are:

Shailendra Bhandare: "Rethinking the Revolt: Coinage in 1857-59."

Prof Ruby Maloni of the History Dept, University of Mumbai: "The Rani of Jhansi,"

Paul Stevens: "Dr Stewart and his machinery for the copper coinage of Bombay".

A second meeting at the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum at 11 a.m. is planned for Saturday 1 December 2007, commencing 11 a.m.

AGM

In Journal no 190 we said that, subject to confirmation, the annual general meeting of the Society would be held at the London Coin fair on 9 June 2007. Unfortunately that will not be possible because a number of Council members will not be able to attend the meeting. Instead the annual general meeting will be held at the meeting planned for Saturday 1 December 2007 at the British Museum in London.

Jena Meeting

This year's meeting is due to take place on 12-13 May. A provisional programme has been drawn up which includes the following papers, to be given in German or English depending on the contributor.

Dieter Weber: "Sasanian money and money payments in texts"

Susan Tyler-Smith: "The Shiraz 11/13 hoard"

Dietrich Schnädelbach: "Coin weight standards"

Paul Yule: "The coins of the Sabaeans: using the die-comparison method"

Stefan Heidemann: "The first textual reference to the Mongol capital, Qara Qorum 635/1237"

Johann-Christoph Hinrichs: "Das Kreuz mit dem Kreuz – Christian coinage of the Ilkhanid period"

Muhammad Younis: "First results about the numismatic research on Shiraz"

Necdet Kabakları: "Snake figures on Ayasluq and Tire mangirs"

For more information please contact:

Stefan Heidemann

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena,

Institut für Sprachen und Kulturen des Vorderen Orients

Lehrstuhl für Semitische Philologie und Islamwissenschaft

- Orientalisches Münzkabinett -

Sellierstr. 6, D-07745 Jena

Tel.: +49 (3641) 9 44864; +49 (170) 7542676 (Mobile)

e-mail: x7hest@uni-jena.de

New Members

European Region

1903 Alexander A. Kazarov, Khersonskaya Street, 7-3-391, 117461 MOSCOW, Russian Federation.

E-mail: skazarov@mail.ru

Interests and knowledgeable on the Coinage of the Golden Horde and Girai Khanate; contemporary imitations of Golden Horde coins

1904 Gwennoilé H. Dorange, 6 rue de Curzay, 95880 ENGHUEN-LES-BAINS, France.

Interests: Ayyubid, Selcukid, Ilkhanid, Artukid, Aq Qoyunlu, Qara Qoyunlu, Anatolian Beyliks and coins of any Anatolian mint. Knowledgeable on the coins of Anatolian origin.

1905 Leonid Tarlakovsky, Ul. Savushkina, 130-1-227, 197374 SANKT-PETERBURG, Russian Federation.

E-mail: leonid_t@mail.ru

Interests: Medieval Islamic, pre-Islamic Asia and Ancient China coinage.

1906 Dirk Hiemstra, Westerbuorrem, 9212 PK BOORNBERGUM, Netherlands.

E-mail: d.a.hiemstra@hetnet.nl

Interests : Oriental coins in general.

Revised addresses, interests etc.

167 Jan Lingen, Lange Stoep 25, 2941 AE Lekkerkerk, Netherlands

1633 Prof. Dr Michael Fedorov, Peterskopffstrasse 12 68163 MANNHEIM, Germany

1705 Alain Gnaedig, 67, avenue de Ségur, 75007 PARIS France
e-mail : alain@gnaedig.com.fr

1708 Herve Thierry, 37, rue du capitaine Yves Hervouet, 44300 NANTES, France.
e-mail : HERVETHrry@aol.com

Y180	Qian Ping (Java) ¹	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Y181	Qian Ping (Java) ¹	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N218	Djambi	98	-	0.4	-	-	1	0.1	0.3
KL9	Bantam (M113) ²	72	-	+	-	2	-	11	10
KL10	Bantam (M113) ²	69	5	-	-	1	-	9	10
SS40	Trengganu	66	33	0.3	-	+	-	0.7	0.5
Y96	Bantam (M111) fake	47	3	43	0.4	5	1	-	-
Y162	Pahang (SS29)	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Y100	Trengganu (SS38)	2.5	94	-	-	3.5	-	-	-
Y101	Trengganu (SS43)	40	53	1	0.5	6	-	-	-
Y163	Bazaruco (Malacca)	-	93	+	-	7	-	-	-
Y204	Kelantan (SS32)	18	68	1	1	1	-	+	+
13572	Qian Ping (Tegal) ³	48	51	+	0.5	+	-	-	-
SS82	Perak	41	58	0.8	-	+	-	+	+

¹ illustrated by Mitchiner (1986); ² fragments; ³from Wereld Museum, Rotterdam

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Officers of the Society

Secretary General: Nicholas Rhodes, 28 Napier Gardens, Hythe, Kent CT21 6DD, U.K.

Regional Secretaries:

General: Mr. R. Senior, Butleigh Court Tower, Butleigh,, Glastonbury, Soms, BA6 8SA, U.K.

Europe: Mr. J. Lingen, Lange Stoep 25, 2941 AE, Lekkerkerk, Netherlands. E-mail: lingen@wx.nl

U.K. & Eire: Mr. P. Smith, 9 Grandison Road, London SW11 6LS, U.K., E-mail: psmith755@aol.com

America: Mr. C. Karukstis, P.O. Box 1528, Claremont,, CA 91711, U.S.A., e-mail: charlie@charliek.com

South Asia: Dr Dilip Rajgor, Flat#4, Sonal Darshan, Goshala Road, Mulund (W), Mumbai, 400 080 India.
e-mail: drajgor@hotmail.com

Pakistan Chapter: Mr. S. M. Mirza, 2-98-E Panorama Centre, Blue Area, Islamabad, Pakistan.
e-mail: shafqatmirza@hotmail.com

Annual Subscription: £15, €25, \$30.

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Fig. 15. - Safavid, Husayn I, Kingdom of Kartli, Bakar/Vakhtang VI, AR, mahmudi, Tiflis, 1131 AH (AR, Weight: 2.69 g; diameter: 19 mm; die axis: 4 o'clock)

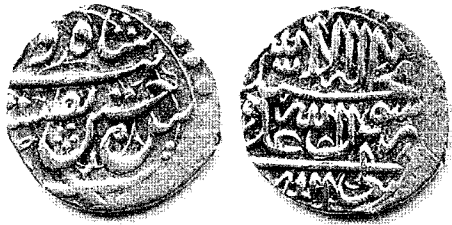


Fig. 16. - Safavid, Husayn I, Kingdom of Kartli, Bakar/Vakhtang VI, AR, mahmudi, Tiflis, [1131] AH (AR, Weight: 2.72 g; diameter: 17.5-18 mm; die axis: 4:15 o'clock)



Fig. 17. - Safavid, Husayn I, Kingdom of Kartli, Bakar/Vakhtang VI, AR, mahmudi, Tiflis, 1131 AH (AR, Weight: NA; diameter: NA; die axis: NA)



Fig. 18. - Safavid, Husayn I, Kingdom of Kartli, Bakar/Vakhtang VI, AR, mahmudi, Tiflis, 1131 AH (AR, Weight: NA; diameter: NA; die axis: NA)



Fig. 19. - Safavid, Husayn I, Kingdom of Kartli, Vakhtang VI, AR, mahmudi, Tiflis, 1134 AH (AR, Weight: 2.69 g; diameter: 18 mm; die axis: 6 o'clock)

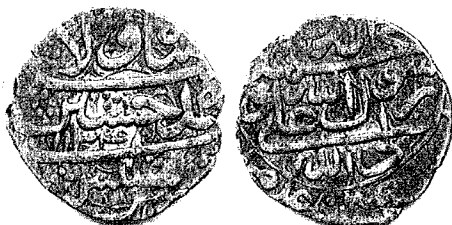


Fig. 20. - Safavid, Husayn I, Kingdom of Kartli, Vakhtang VI, AR, mahmudi, Tiflis, 1134 AH (AR, Weight: NA; diameter: NA; die axis: NA)

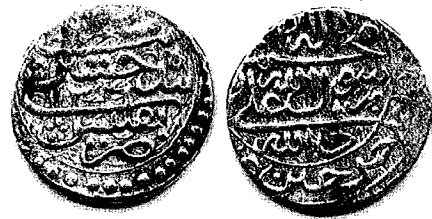


Fig. 21. - Safavid, Husayn I, Kingdom of Kartli, Vakhtang VI, AR, mahmudi, Tiflis, 1134 AH (AR, Weight: 2.65 g; diameter: 18 mm; die axis: 9 o'clock)

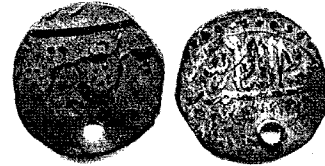


Fig. 22. - Safavid, Husayn I, Kingdom of Kartli, Bakar/Vakhtang VI, AR, shahi, Tiflis, [1130-1132] AH (AR, Weight: 1.32 g, holed; diameter: 15 mm; die axis: 12:30 o'clock)



Fig. 23. - Safavid, Husayn I, Kingdom of Kartli, Bakar/Vakhtang VI, AR, shahi, Tiflis, 1131 AH (AR, Weight: NA, plugged; diameter: 14-15 mm; die axis: 7 o'clock)

RE-DATING EUKRATIDES I RELATIVE TO MITHRADATES I

By L.M. Wilson and G.R.F. Assar

As Justin (41.6.1.) reports that the inception of the reign of Eukratides was 'at about the same time' as that of Mithradates I of Parthia, his remark has always helped us determine the inception date of Eukratides I. Although his phrase 'at about the same time' may cover a gap of many years, unless we dismiss Justin altogether the inception date for Eukratides I of Bactria is approximately the same as for Mithradates I. Since the previous generally accepted dates for Mithradates I have been c.171 to 138 BC, the inception date of Eukratides I has generally been taken as approximately 171 BC while the actual date for Eukratides could be a few years before or after this.

But it has now been shown that the dates of Mithradates I need to be changed. Firstly, it can be shown that Mithradates I succeeded his brother, Phraates I, in 165 BC, shortly before the death of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 BC), and not in c. 171 BC¹. Secondly, contrary to the general belief that Mithradates I died in 138/7 BC, there is contemporary evidence from Babylonia to confirm that he was alive as late as April 132 BC² and there is a further piece of contemporary evidence, a "Deed of Gift to the House of Gods" from Babylonia dated July 132 BC, showing that the son of Mithradates I, Phraates II, succeeded his father as a minor^{3,4} and reigned jointly with his mother for a few months (before he attained majority). Thirdly, this terminal date (132) with the 31 full regnal years of Mithradates I assigned by Moses of Chorene (33 total including the 2 incomplete years, as before), gives 165 as the inception date². Therefore the revised dates for Mithradates I are c.165 to 132 BC. In other words the whole reign has been shifted by 6 years. Using this revised date for Mithradates I, it seems that the best estimate for the date of the accession of Eukratides I to the throne of Bactria is now somewhere around 165 BC.

The actual date can of course be a few years either side of this 165 date, (as was the case for the 171 date⁵, above), and can perhaps be narrowed down to give a better estimate. The

usurpation of Eukratides appears to have been a long process, with Eukratides I fighting against rivals over several years. So when does one take the beginning of his actual reign and when did Eukratides himself consider that his reign officially began? As Justin places the accession of Eukratides I close to that of Mithradates I, it may be safer to assume that the Bactrian ruler actually began a couple of years earlier than the Parthian, rather than later. Perhaps a date closer to 170 BC for the inception of Eukratides I may be more accurate, satisfying the long usurpation, as well as satisfying the enormous coinage output and accommodating the adoption of an epithet by Eukratides I (associated with the coinage of Timarchos). The adoption of the *megalou* epithet by Eukratides I seems to be associated with his invasion of 'Indian' territory to the south of the Hindu Kush and was no later than c.162/1 BC since Timarchos copied his type. Thus his pre-epithet coinage must be accommodated into the years before c.162 and an inception date of 165 seems rather late. One further crucial chronological marker is the 'year 24' inscription from Ai Khanoum⁶. His dates must fit around this 24 regnal year time-frame. If there is a suitable inception (or terminal) date for Eukratides I then the (at least) 24 year length of his reign may give an approximate terminal (or inception) date, as discussed further below.

Incidentally, if Eukratides I went to war with Demetrios I (rather than II) and given the revised inception date of Mithradates I, Demetrios I may have reigned from c.185 to c.170/167 BC, his terminal date being shifted a few years later than before⁵. A terminal date closer to 170 is still possible, but given that the war between Eukratides and Demetrios may have lasted some time a date closer to 167 seems more likely.

For the terminal date of Eukratides I, perhaps the two best lines of evidence we have are 1) the dating of the Parthian campaign against Media, taken together with Justin, and 2) the famous 'Year 24' inscription fragment from Ai Khanoum⁶.

For 1), with the proviso that Justin as an historical source does compress, omit and tend to force synchronisms and that 'meanwhile' may cover a gap of many years, Justin (41.6.5) places the death of Eukratides I just before or at around the time of the conquest of Media by Mithradates I. Again, unless we dismiss Justin altogether, his remarks could help determine the terminal date of the reign of Eukratides I. Given that Mithradates I combined vigour with prudence, it is highly unlikely that he began to attack Media before Alexander Balas challenged Demetrios I in 153/2 BC. In fact, this date agrees well with Justin (41.6.6) who reports that the Partho-Median conflicts went on for some time with both sides enjoying intermittent success before the Parthians finally prevailed. The date of Mithradates' conquest of Media can be fixed to late 148 - early 147 BC. So, assuming that Justin's chronology is at least approximately correct, the Parthian evidence appears to give another terminal date of the reign of Eukratides I. It now seems that an estimate from this reasoning is that the date of his assassination was somewhere around 150 BC, although it is not clear if the beginning of the Median campaign or its final climax or sometime in-between should be taken, nor if Justin refers to just the last mentioned event in Bactria (the assassination of Eukratides) or the previous events in general happening 'as a war arose between the Parthians and Medes'. If the date of the *final* conquest of Media is taken, then the latest date of his assassination, as suggested by Justin, is circa 148 BC. Bearing in mind the reservations about Justin, this is not a reliable or precise date and plus or minus 5 years may be a realistic margin of error. However, the Indian campaigns of Eukratides probably continued for many years and the enormous output of Eukratides' coinage with the *megalou* epithet (after c.162/1) does suggest a later terminal date rather than an earlier one.

For 2), the famous 'year 24' inscription from Ai Khanoum; the archaeological context does suggest a close association to Eukratides I according to Bernard⁶. If this does refer to Eukratides I and not to a previous king (like Demetrios I) and if it is a regnal year of Eukratides I, then we know that the reign of Eukratides I officially had at *least* 24 regnal years. There is no guarantee that Eukratides had just 24 regnal years. If the 'year 24' inscription is

associated with Eukratides I and does give his regnal years, it is not certain that this was his *last* year and that Eukratides I died after 24 regnal years. He may have ruled for more than 24 regnal years and it could be possible that the terminal date of Eukratides I is later *and/or* the inception date is earlier than a reign based only on 24 years (which gives c.165 to c.142 or c.171/0 to 148/7).

The (at least) 24 year length of Eukratides' reign does seem to stretch the dates for its inception and termination if only c.165 and c.150 (or even 148) deduced above from the Parthian chronology and Justin are taken. Thus it appears that the inception date was indeed earlier and dates of c.171 to c.148 BC satisfy the 24 year requirement. However this may be further complicated by the fact that it *could* be possible that Eukratides I backdated his reign, hence the official inception date of Eukratides I may be earlier than the date on which he actually occupied the throne. Unfortunately we have no solid information about his usurpation, which may have lasted several years (hinted in Justin) and he may even have backdated his reign to the time he was a satrap or commander under Demetrios I. This may explain why he had already conducted 'many wars' before being besieged by Demetrios.

If the inception date for Eukratides I is c.170, this could be considered together with the '24' regnal years, to give c.147 as the terminal date (or 148 if the inception date is 171). From 1) we have the death of Eukratides I in about 148, giving us another possible terminal date. Thus dates of c.171 to c.148 may satisfy all the points above. As can be seen there is not much difference between these dates and the previous generally accepted dates of c.171 to 145 BC, but these are by no means certain and an inception date closer to 165 cannot be ruled out.

References

- 1] Assar, G.R.F., *Genealogy and Coinage of the Early Parthian Rulers. II. A Revised Stemma*, Parthica, 6, 2006, 29-63. Cf. pp. 41-45.
- 2] Assar, G.R.F., *A Revised Parthian Chronology of the Period 165-91 BC*, Electrum, 11, 2006, 87-158. Cf. pp. 87-98.
- 3] Assar, G.R.F., *Parthian Calendars at Babylon and Seleucia on the Tigris*, Iran, 41, 2003, 171-191. Cf. p. 186, n. 25.
- 4] Dabrowa, E., *Les Aspects Politiques et Militaires de la Conquete Parthe de la Mesopotamie*, Electrum, 10, 2005, 73-88. Cf. p.73.
- 5] Wilson, L.M., *King Demetrios of India and Eukratides of Bactria*, ONS 174, 2003.
- 6] Bernard, P., *Note sur la Signification Historique du Tresor d'Ai Khanoum*, Revue Numismatique, 1975

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE INDO-GREEK KINGS AFTER MENANDER, Part 1.

By Jens Jakobsson

This article attempts to outline the history of the Indo-Greek kings from the time of the death of Menander I to the fall of Taxila to the Saka Maues. Thanks are due to Mark Passehl (co-moderator of Yahoo Hellenistica Group) for several suggestions. All dates are approximate.

The death of the Indo-Greek king Menander I Soter is generally stated to have occurred around 130 BC. At this time, while the Bactrian kingdom was succumbing to the pressure of the Yüeh-chi, the Indo-Greek kingdom was still flourishing after his recent conquests.



Fig 1. Tetradrachm of Menander, middle-aged portrait. (www.gmcoinart.de)