

SPINK NUMISMATIC CIRCULAR

December 1990
Volume XCVIII
Number 10

Greek Silver
Select Greek Bronzes
Roman Republic
Roman Empire
English Hammered Gold
English Hammered Silver
Milled Silver
British Tokens
Orders, Decorations & Medals
Books

WINTER 1990
SPINK MEDAL AUCTIONS
ORDER, DECORATION, AND MEDALS
The Cavendish Hotel

SPINK NUMISMATIC CIRCULAR
Volume XCVIII
Number 10

No. 78
1990
Our sale during
Comex Week
SPINK COIN AUCTIONS
Ancient and World Coins
including a fine collection of West Indian
cut and counterstamped coins
at The Cavendish Hotel
Wednesday 10 October 1990

The First World War...
The Second World War...
The Third World War...
The Fourth World War...
The Fifth World War...
The Sixth World War...
The Seventh World War...
The Eighth World War...
The Ninth World War...
The Tenth World War...

SPINK NUMISMATIC CIRCULAR FOR DECEMBER 1990
CONTAINS: GREEK SILVER, SELECT GREEK BRONZES, ROMAN REPUBLIC, ROMAN EMPIRE, ENGLISH HAMMERED GOLD, ENGLISH HAMMERED SILVER, MILLED SILVER, BRITISH TOKENS, ORDERS, DECORATIONS & MEDALS, BOOKS.

- 4 D. Sinor, *History of Hungary* (1959), pp. 121-47.
 5 J. Porteous, *Coins in History* (1969), pp. 124-6, 132, 142, 154; E. E. and V. Clain-Stefanelli, *Monnaies européennes* (Fribourg, 1978), pp. 102-3.
 6 Heron does not state the purpose of the Hungarian's visit but clearly it must be seen in the context of powers granted by Henry VII on 27 May 1502 to Geoffrey Blythe, dean of York, to treat with King Vladislas II for an alliance against the Mohammedans. T. Rymer, *Foedera*, 2nd edn (1727-35), XIII, 4-5.

- 7 P.R.O. E 36/214 fo. 20v, 27 February, 1506. Here too the exceptional nature of the sovereign references may be judged by the fact that in none of the other instances in this book of payments to diplomats is the sovereign mentioned.
 8 B. P. Wolffe "Henry VII's Land Revenues and Chamber Finance", *English Historical Review*, CCCXI (1964), 251-4.
 9 "A Narrative of the Reception of Philip King of Castile in England in 1506", in *Memorials of King Henry the Seventh*, Rolls Series 10 (1858), pp. 282-303.
 10 S. B. Chrimes, *Henry VII* (1972), pp. 289-91.

Some New Coins of Vologases V G. R. Assar



Facing Bust



Profile Bust

During the last 50 years of the Parthian dynasty, roughly AD 170-220, the major concern of the ruling Arsacids lay in fending off the unwelcome attentions of Rome. In a sense, the Romans were always looking for a replay of the battle of Carrhae which they lost so disastrously; emperors such as Trajan and Aurelius could be sure of public support at home whether they led invading armies in person or sent deputies like Verus. After the assassination of Commodus in AD 190, the succession was in dispute. Eventually the winner was Severus who, asserting that there had been Parthian help for one of his rivals, brought the legions once again into Mesopotamia, sacking the Arsacid capital Seleucia-Ctesiphon in AD 197.

The prince who bore the brunt of this offensive was Vologases V. From his dated tetradrachms we know that his reign in Seleucia, where this denomination was struck, extended from AD 191 to 207. Initially, the coins depict a facing bust, which may indicate an Atropatenean origin; such issues are very rare, the only published examples being in the BM trays, their dates being approximately August 191 and January 192. Subsequently, Vologases adopted the normal profile bust for examples dating between uncertain months in 192 and 207/8. In both portraits the monarch has the exaggerated bouffant hair-style found earlier on the coinage of Osroes I (c. AD 109-129) and afterwards to characterise the images of the Sasanian princes.

On the plateau of Iran with its major (perhaps sole) mint of Ecbatana there circulated drachms of the facing bust type, but they are not dated and so cannot directly assist in establishing the chronology. These coins are also rare (though not so rare as the larger denomination) and their attribution is secure because the inscription on them includes in Aramaic the name of Vologases. Hitherto, no drachms of this ruler with the profile bust have come to light. It may be that the military situation in Mesopotamia, where a build-up of forces to resist the impending conflict with Rome would have taken place, permitted on the plateau the rise of a usurper, striking very common drachms with the name Osroes (II), but no tetradrachms.

A small group of profile bust drachms has now appeared, thus completing the issues of Vologases V. At first glance they might be taken to be an aberrant issue of Osroes I, but on the reverse we have once again "Vologases" in Aramaic, so there can be no doubt of the allocation to the later prince. Furthermore, they reportedly formed part of a much larger hoard mainly of drachms of Vologases VI, whose dated coinage runs from 207 to 227.

The new coins all come from the same pair of dies and details of the known specimens are as follows.

Number	Weight (grammes)	Die axis (degree clockwise)
1	4.06	20
2	3.93	0
3	3.84	0
4	3.84	340
5	3.83	350
6	3.82	30
7	3.77	10
8	3.77	0
9	3.74	0
10	3.74	350
11	3.73	10
12	3.71	10
13	3.71	10
14	3.70	340
15	3.69	0
16	3.68	350
17	3.67	0
18	3.67	0
19	3.66	350
20	3.66	10
21	3.66	0
22	3.63	0
23	3.62	20
24	3.61	10
25	3.59	1
26	3.55	0
27	3.55	0
28	3.52	0
29	3.52	0
30	3.49	0

JOHN BRAND

Former President of the
 British Numismatic Society
 died suddenly on October 10th at home
 in Rochester, Kent.

A full obituary will appear in the February issue
 of the 'Circular'

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