Jaworski, Piotr

Cyrenaican coinage from the beginning of Roman rule : new evidence from Ptolemais

Światowit 6 (47)/Fasc.A, 11-18

2006

Artykuł został zdigitalizowany i opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.
Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the so-called Villa with a View in Ptolemais, conducted by Tomasz Mikocki since 2001\(^1\), have contributed significantly to knowledge of town history and development. Numismatics is one field in which substantial verification as well as new evidence has been collected. Current finds by the Polish mission\(^2\) (Tabela 1), have helped to re-think Cyrenaican coinage in both the Hellenistic and Roman periods, especially with regard to local issues from the beginning of Imperial rule, which are presented in this article. Two things should be kept in mind: firstly, that regular research on the coins from Ptolemais is relatively limited, having started only four years ago\(^3\), and secondly, that archaeological research in Cyrenaica and the resultant publications (coins included) are lagging far behind other regions of the Greco-Roman world. Libya’s long isolation on the international scene is responsible for this state of affairs and it is hoped that the present political opening up will be more permanent. Archaeological expeditions currently working in Libya have at their disposal a variety of non-invasive methods that limit traditional digging to a minimum and are invaluable especially in topographical research\(^4\).

Ptolemais in Cyrenaica\(^5\) (modern Tolmeita) was established in the first half of the 3rd century A.D. on the site of the ancient port of Barca. Its long history was a series of rises and falls. In any case, it quickly pushed out its mother city from the Pentapolis. The other towns in this long-lasting union of the five biggest urban centers in Cyrenaica, a fertile strip of land between the sea and the Green Mountains on one side and the desert on the other, were Cyrene, invested with a leading political role, Berenice, Tocra and Apollonia.

In the troubled first half of the 3rd century A.C., one of the Ptolemies (the exact date of the foundation remains to be established)\(^6\) founded a big urban center, which took its name from the rulers of this Hellenistic dynasty. The new city followed an orthogonal plan, covering some 250 ha on and around the site of a port that


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number of Items Identified</th>
<th>Number of Items Illegible</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Greek Coins of Cyrenaica</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Greek Coins Struck Outside Cyrenaica</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Cyrenaica Under Romans</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Roman Empire</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

\(1\) Extensively on the excavations, Polish dailies and weeklies Polityka, Rzeczpospolita, Gazeta Wyborcza, as well as radio and television. For a rudimentary list of references, see notes 12-13. Current news on the expedition’s website: [www.archeo.uw.edu.pl/ptolemais](http://www.archeo.uw.edu.pl/ptolemais).


\(3\) Ancient coins from the American excavations were discussed in C. Kraeling’s monograph of Ptolemais (C. KraeLiNG, *Ptolemais. City of the Libyan Pentapolis*, Chicago 1962). While interesting from the perspective of comparative studies, it lacks the overview and conclusions that would present the material against the backdrop of the region as a whole. Awaiting publication are dozens of coins collected by Libyan archaeologists during rescue work conducted in the ruins of the ancient town and necropolis since the 1970s, as well as acquired from local inhabitants, now in the collection of the local archaeological museum in Ptolemais. Thanks to the offices of Mr. Faraj A.O. Tahir, the present author was able to see the set in 2004; it is under study currently.


\(5\) Kraeling’s excellent monograph of Ptolemais requires verification in many places, taking into account the results of fieldwork carried out since 2001.

had been inhabited by Greeks since at least the 6th century A.C. The royal character of the foundation ensured near to two hundred years of stable development and growing importance in the region. The Roman taking of Cyrenaica appears to have had detrimental impact on the town, which was deserted for a while until new settlers were brought in, recruited most likely from among former pirates, who suffered a resounding defeat at the hands of Pompey in 67 A.C.7 Even so, Ptolemais must be seen as playing a role of some importance in the region during the fighting in the second half of the 1st century A.C. Let it be considered that despite no minting traditions to its name, it began to issue coins, which together with the coins of Cyrene were introduced into circulation by Roman officials in charge of Cyrenaica. Under Imperial Roman rule, the city flourished in the reigns of the Antonine and Severan dynasties. In the times of Diocletian, after the first of two extensive earthquakes that ruined the cities of Cyrenaica (in A.D. 262 and 365), the relatively less damaged Ptolemais gradually took over from Cyrene as the capital of the Libya Superior province7. In the early years of the 5th century, Synesius of Cyrene, a Greek philosopher and Christian writer of some standing, acted as bishop here8. In A.D. 643, the town fell under Arab occupation, as did all of Cyrenaica9.

Ptolemais occupied an approximately rectangular area, ca 1450 m by 1700 m, spliced between the coast (old port district) and the first mountain ridge. City walls encircled all of the urban area with terraces picturesquely climbing in the direction of the hills in the south. A regular street network marked out blocks of architecture, insulae, measuring 100 by 500 Ptolemaic feet (36.5 m by 182.5 m). Public buildings, temples, palaces and private houses gradually filled the city center. Today in ruins, these monumental structures stand even several meters high, seldom reconstructed, if at all. Capitals and fragmentary column shafts mark the position of palaces or temples covered with sand. The general view is not much different from that which the first travelers visiting the ancient site saw in the early 19th century11. Among the best-preserved ancient structures are the Arch of Constantine, city baths and residences (including the so-called Palace of the Dux, the seat of the Roman governor in Late Antiquity), all located in the main street ("Via Monumentale"). A Hellenistic bouleuterion rebuilt into an odeon, city gate opening on the road to Tocra, theater in the hills, amphitheater, stadium, so-called West Basilica, huge underground cisterns and one of the best preserved Hellenistic mausolea lying in the midst of a huge rock necropolis full of sarcophagi – these are but a few of the mute witnesses of a millennium of town development.

The Polish expedition working in Ptolemais since 200112 runs three research projects covering: ancient urban topography (based on non-destructive surveying), excavations of a selected urban insula (Villa with a View) and interdisciplinary studies of Christian Ptolemais initiated after the discovery in 2004 of a new basilica in the eastern necropolis.

Excavations of the Villa with a View have proved spectacular to the extreme, thanks to the discovery in the central part of the house of the 3rd century A.D. (built on the ruins of an older building) of an interesting set of mosaic floors and wall paintings presenting a rich geometric and figural repertory of motifs13. Five field seasons have also yielded a few thousand artifacts representing all categories of finds: abundant pottery, lamps – ca 600 whole and fragmentary pieces, stone objects (including statuary and inscriptions), as well as glass, terracottas, bone and metal fragments, finally coins, more than 300 in all, among which there is a set of a few dozen bronzes from the turn of the 4th century, discovered in 2005 inside a terracotta lamp production workshop operating in the ruins of the villa after the quake of A.D. 365.

---

9 Idem, Synesius of Cyrene: Bishop of Ptolemais [in:] ibidem, p. 239-245.
11 Wiadomość o Cyrenej i o mieście Cyrene, zebrana z opisów podróży: Kapitana Beechey, P. Della Cella i P. T.R. Pacho osobno w różnych czasach odkrytych, Kolumb. Pamiętnik podróży 1829, nr 26, p. 57-68; (...) before you reach it [Cyrene – P.J.], the road leads to the mounds of Teuchira and Ptolemais. You can see there wonderful monuments of antiquity and very finely preserved marbles.
With the exception of a few silver pieces, all of the coins from the Villa with a View are bronzes. Specific geological conditions and considerable salinity due to the proximity of the sea are responsible for the poor preservation of these objects, a problem characteristic of most sites in Cyrenaica as a matter of fact. A vast majority of Hellenistic coins, including the small-denomination Ptolemaic bronzes in circulation in Cyrenaica in the first years of Roman rule in the region, as well as coins issued by the Roman administration in local mints were retrieved from destruction and accumulation layers connected with the great quakes of the 3rd and 4th century A.D. These layers consist of what the villa had been built of: mainly stone blocks and wall plaster, earth and fragmentary mud brick. The coins were lost in various parts of the building, sealed by successive quake-related damages. Today, they are of considerable assistance in stratifying the remains and determining precise dates for particular building phases.

The formal beginning of Roman rule in Cyrenaica came with the death in 96 A.C. of Ptolemy Apion, who left the entire region to the Republic in his will14. In the first twenty years, however, Rome did little to organize the new province, except granting independence to the towns of the Pentapolis. The coins in circulation were primarily bronzes struck in Cyrene in the 3rd and 2nd centuries A.C. (Fig. 1)15. No gold issues had been minted since the reign of Ptolemy I and no silver ones since the revolt of Magas (ca 282-261 A.C.). Numerous finds of heavily worn silver coins from the early 3rd century A.C. are proof that they were still in circulation in the 1st century A.C.16 At the same time, coins from other Greek centers, as well as Egypt, are characteristically absent from assemblages excavated in Cyrenaica. In this light, the halfed coin of Hieron II of Syracuse (275-215 A.C.) found by the Polish expedition (Fig. 2) takes on special importance17.

The small currency in circulation that the Romans encountered taking over Cyrenaica included foremost three types of small Ptolemaic bronzes: Ptolemy I/ head of Libya, Zeus-Ammon/ eagle, Zeus-Ammon/ headdress of Isis (Fig. 3). The denomination is yet to be determined, but it is obvious that these coins, which were struck in Cyrene at the turn of the 2nd century A.C., remained in use long after the arrival of the Romans, presumably until the end of the 1st century A.D. In the excavation assemblages from Apollonia18, Cyrene19, Sidi Khrebish20 and Ptolemais21, they constitute a meaningful share of all the coin finds22. The first Roman issues in Cyrenaica did not appear until thirty years after the taking of the region and almost ten years after the actual establishment of a province in 75 A.C. (which event must have been triggered by the impunity of pirates ravaging the African

---


16 Ibidem.


21 JAWORSKI, op.cit.
The first issues were linked with the conquest of Crete by Quintus Metellus in 67 A.C. and the founding of the province of Crete and Cyrenaica, combining together Greek-speaking regions that had previously had a different history, different geopolitical position and minting tradition. The Romans left the local denominations in each of these regions, sporadically introducing bronze coins that corresponded at first with the local weight standards and later with their own, Roman standards. The first Roman issues (dated to 67- ca 40 A.C.) emphasized the establishment of a common province. On coins of the first issue, which were modeled on Cretan coinage (type: Head of Roma/bee), Greek legends appeared: ΠΟΜΙ or ΚΗΠΚΤΙΚΥΠΑ. Second-issue coins (type: bust of Libya/bust of Crete-Artemis), which are difficult to date exactly, were struck by the otherwise unknown officials P. Licinius and P. Lepidus, and bore the full legend: ΑΙΒΗΥΚΗΠΗΤΑ.

Successive issues, bearing names of Roman officials nominated to serve in the province, introduced Roman weight standards in Crete as well as in Cyrenaica (uncial at first, later semuncial, finally complying with Augustus' reform). The coins of L. Lollius (Fig. 4), and later also P. Canidius Crassus, were struck parallel for Crete and Cyrenaica. They have the same types of obverse and reverse, differing solely in the legend: Greek for Cyrenaica, Latin for Crete. The coins for Cyrenaica were struck presumably in Cyrene, those for Crete at Knossos. Denominations in circulation must have corresponded with the Roman as, semis and quadrans. Lollius' issues (with the characteristic curule chair featured on the reverse) preceded those of Crassus, but cannot be dated exactly. The crocodile symbolizing Egypt's rule on Crassus' coins indicates that they were struck after 37 A.C.25, when Marc Anthony offered the joint province (except the exception of Knossos, where a Roman colony was established a year later) to Cleopatra. Crassus' issues, struck mainly in the mints in Knossos and Cyrene (but also Ptolemais), are the last joint coinage of Crete and Cyrenaica. Even so, local coins continue to circulate between the two parts of the province, as indicated, among others, by a unique find from the Polish excavations at Ptolemais (Fig. 5): halved as of Kydas26, allegedly Anthony's man, who took the highest office in Knossos in 37 A.C. Despite its rarity, the find is not surprising, considering that both Cretan and Cyrenaican issues were being adapted to Roman weight standards.

The first Roman official to strike a coin with Greek legend exclusively for Cyrenaica was A. Pupius Rufus27. His ases bear a head of Zeus-Ammon and the curule chair between two fases, already featured on Lollius' coins (Fig. 6). A ram is represented on the reverse of Pupius' semis, a coiled serpent on the quadranses.

In 2005, the Polish excavations at Ptolemais yielded the most unique find in this context: a quadrans of Pupius Rufus with a previously unknown legend on the obverse (Fig. 7). Only a few bronzes of this type are known28; the obverse features a head of Libya with the Latin letter L (signifying Libya) and the reverse a coiled serpent between letters reading Pupius in Greek (ΙΟΥΠΙΟΣ). The coin from the Polish excavations at Ptolemais29, preserved in good condition, shows the Greek letters ΙΤ instead of the L on the obverse. This

---

20 ΒΜΚΥρ, op.cit., p. ccii-cciii; p. 113 (no. 1, pl. ΦΙΙΙΙΧ.4). Cf. BUTTREY, ibidem, p. 168.
24 Some believe these issues to have been struck in the late 40s A.C. The P. Lepidus from the coins can be identified with Paulius Aemilius Lepidus: R.D. WEIGEL, A Note on P. Lepidus, Classical Philology 73, 1978, fasc. 1, p. 42-45.
26 ΒΜΚΥρ, op.cit., p. cciii; p. 113 (no. 2, 2bis, pl. ΦΙΙΙΙΧ.5-6).
27 The case of local Cyrenaican coinage of the 1st century A.C. being adapted to Roman weight standards was analyzed in depth by Buttrey: BUTTREY, The Roman coinage of the Cyrenaica, op.cit., p. 33 sq. The present author follows Buttrey's proposition of local coinage denominations in circulation in Cyrenaica at the time.
28 ΒΜΚΥρ, op.cit., p. cciii-ccvi; p. 114-116 (no. 3-23, pl. ΦΙΙΙΧ.10-XΙΙΙ.7).
25 Ibidem, p. ccvi-ccvii; p. 117 (no. 24-26, pl. ΙΧΙΙΙ.8-12).
26 BUTTREY, The Roman coinage of the Cyrenaica, op.cit., p. 31.
27 See below.
29 Two asses of Crassus originating from Crete and overstruck by Kydas, now in the British Museum: CHAPMAN, op.cit., p. 21.
30 ΒΜΚΥρ, op.cit., p. ccxii-ccxiii; p. 117-119 (nos. 27-35, pl. ΙΧΙΙΙΙ.1-6).
32 Ptolemais museum, inv. no. cn/90/05; diameter: 16 mm, weight: 3.09 g.
form of abbreviation of the name of the town of Ptolemais has been recorded on two bronze coins of the popular type with the head of Ptolemy I and the head of Libya\(^a\). Also known in two examples\(^b\), a coin of Crassus with the Tyche of a town\(^c\) on the obverse and a crocodile on the reverse (Fig. 8), features the full form of the name of the city: ITIOAEMAI. Because of the rareness of the find, the possibility that Crassus actually established a mint in Ptolemais has been treated by some scholars with due caution. Unlike its mother town, Barca, Ptolemais does not seem to have had, apart from these examples, any minting tradition of its own.

The quadrans discovered by the Polish expedition in 2005 could be held as evidence for a mint in Ptolemais, established by Crassus and still operating in the times of his successor, Pupius Rufus. Following this line of reasoning, it would seem that just like in the times of Crassus, there were two versions of the coin in circulation simultaneously: those from Cyrene marked with the letters L and A and those from Ptolemais with the letters ITT.

The discovery has also focused attention on a number of issues that require detailed study and further discussion.

- For one, has the head on the obverse of Pupius Rufus’ quadranses been identified properly as Libya\(^d\), or is it perhaps Apollo (no characteristically feminine features make the representation very much akin to the images of Apollo on earlier semises of Lollius\(^e\) and Krassus\(^f\))?
- Is the coiled serpent on the reverse a depiction of Agathodaimon\(^g\) (the form on the coin is distant from the well-known Alexandrian iconography, while approaching the local iconographic tradition)\(^h\)? After all, ever since Alexander the Great, who was worshipped in Alexandria in his own temple, as well as in a temple dedicated to this “good deity”, considered as the patron deity of the metropolis, the Ptolemies were known to establish temples of Agathodaimon as places of their own cult\(^i\). For example, Ptolemais in Upper Egypt was a center of worship of its founder, Ptolemy I Soter and Psoi, the Egyptian name of the town, correspondent to the Greek agathos daimon\(^j\).
- Was the mint in Ptolemais issuing all the denominations in circulation in the times of Krassus and Pupius Rufus, or only this denomination introduced by these officials (as by Krassus and quadrans by Pupius Rufus)?
- What were the circumstances of the founding and operating of the mint in Ptolemais? What role did political events and military action in the region play? How often were these issues struck, what was their volume and territorial range?

To return to the history of Roman coinage in Cyrenaica, the year after Actium, bronze as (Fig. 9) and as semis coins with legends referring solely to Cleopatra and Marc Anthony on either side (ANTΩ/ΥΠΑ/Γ// ΒΑΣΙΛ/ΘΕΑ/ΝΕ)\(^k\) were struck in Cyrenaica, which remained under Cleopatra’s control at the time. The attribution of these coins, which were nothing but carriers of official titles\(^l\) and bore no connection with local iconographic tradition, had been heavily discussed in older literature\(^m\). Today, there is no doubt as to the attribution of these coins, found in Cyrenaica also as halved examples\(^n\), to Cyrene.

\(^{57}\) SVORONOS, op.cit., no. 859 (pl. XXXIV.11); SNG Copenhagen, vol. 40, op.cit., no. 438. The letters ITT were attributed to Ptolemais by E.S.G. Robinson, who included the coin as his group four of the Ptolemy I/Head of Libya type, dated to 221- c. 140 A.C.: BMC Cyr, op.cit., p. ccv, clix.

\(^{58}\) SVORONOS, op.cit., no. 1901a (from Athens) and 1901b (from Vienna), pl. LXIII.27-28; BMC Cyr, op.cit., p. ccvi, pl. XLIII.10 (from Vienna). More on the mints of Krassus: BUTTREY, The Roman coinage of the Cyrenaica, op.cit., p. 25; he mentions seeing a coin of this type in the office of the Department of Antiquities in Shahat (Cyrene), where Tyche’s head was accompanied apparently by the letters (K)Y(P)A.


\(^{60}\) Robinson was the first to remark on the practical impossibility of differentiating Libya from Apollo on Cyrenaican coins from the Roman period, cf. ROBINSON: BMC Cyr, op.cit., p. ccxv-ccxii.

\(^{61}\) Ibidem, p. 116, no. 21-23, pl. XLII.2-3 and XLII.5.


\(^{64}\) A stone altar with similar image of a coiled serpent is found in the Museum in Cyrene. It is linked with the worship of Isis and originates from the sanctuary in Martuba: Cyrene, N. Bonacasa, S. Ensoli ed., Milano 2000, p. 213. E. S. G. Robinson is of the opinion that the serpent could have been connected with the worship of Asclepius or Zeus-Amon: BMC Cyr, op.cit., p. cxxxi.


\(^{67}\) SVORONOS, op.cit., nos. 1899-1900, pl. LXIII.26.


\(^{69}\) Discussion on this issue reported by Buttrrey: BUTTREY, The Roman coinage of the Cyrenaica, op.cit., p. 26-27.

\(^{70}\) Two halved ases of this type are known from the region of Cyrenaica, one from the American excavations in Cyrene: BUTTREY, The Coins, op.cit., cat. no. 742, and the other from the Polish excavations in Ptolemais: JAWORSKI, op.cit., cat. no. 49.
A wartime incident, when Scarpus\(^{31}\) issued in Cyrenaica in 31 A.C.\(^{32}\) denarii (later also quinarii), first for Marc Anthony and then for Octavian, to satisfy army demand, can hardly be considered as part of the history of local coinage in Roman times despite the head of Zeus-Ammon appearing on these coins. Examples of this group of coins have yet to be found in Cyrenaica.

Local issues of the last quarter of the 1st century A.C. complied with the monetary reform introduced by Augustus. Denominations like the dupondius, as, semis and quadrans were brought into circulation (the latter two only at the beginning). They already bore Latin legends, including imperial titles. While they reveal clear borrowings from Roman bronzes\(^{33}\), they are at the same time much more awkward in the drawing style used for the dies. The as of an official named Scato\(^{34}\) (Fig. 10), struck after 23 A.C., featured a portrait of Augustus on the obverse (double portrait of Augustus and Agrippa on the obverse of the dupondius) and the traditional motif of the curule chair on the reverse. It is noteworthy that Scato borrowed from Pupius Rufus the semis with a ram on the obverse and the quadrans with the serpent.

The bronzes of successive officials, Capito\(^{35}\) and Palikanus\(^{36}\) (Fig. 11), are not well researched as a group\(^{37}\); it is certain, however, that they were the last to be struck in Cyrenaica in the 1st century A.C. On the obverse of the dupondius and as minted at their order, the imperial titles were framed in a wreath, while the reverse featured the well-known motif of curule chair. The letters PR by the officials' names could be understood as meaning an abbreviation from praetor or pro consule.

The last episode in the Roman coinage of Cyrenaica in the studied period is connected with the three different denominations, struck in the reign of Tiberius\(^{38}\) (Fig. 12). Greek legends returned in these issues, but the "barbarization" of the style had gone even further. The head of Drusus appeared on the obverse of the dupondius and as, and a standing camel on the obverse of the semis (motif on the Greek semis of Lollius). On the reverses of all the denominations, there were portraits of Drusus' twin sons, Tiberius and Germanicus. These issues have been dated to the period prior to A.D. 19 (the twins' birth) and A.D. 23 (death of Germanicus).

Interestingly, a vast majority of large bronze denominations from the discussed period, originating from the Polish excavations at Ptolemais, has been halved. Getting smaller denominations (semis in this case and less often quadrans) by dividing ases into halves or even quarters, and thus meeting the demand for small currency on the internal market is a phenomenon that is well known to specialists and described, especially in reference to the western parts of the Empire\(^{39}\). In Poland the issue was treated in detail by A. Kunisz, who however marginalized its occurrence in the East\(^{40}\). It is interesting to note that the halved coins from Ptolemais included not only Roman issues (as of Tiberius and two ases of Caligula)\(^{41}\), but also and in superior numbers, coins from local Greek mints (Cyrene, but also Syracuse and Knossos). This was made possible by the process of adapting the local weight system to Roman standards, which occurred in the 1st century A.C. A halved coin of Hieron II of Syracuse is irrefutable proof for coins of the 3rd century A.C. remaining in circulation for long periods of time.

The numismatic finds from Ptolemais constitute the biggest yet collection of identified coins documenting this phenomenon from Cyrenaica (Tabela 2)\(^{42}\). Barring one exception\(^{43}\), all the big bronzes from the end of the 1st century A.C. and beginning of the 1st century A.D., excavated by the Polish expedition, are cut examples. Certain trends can be noted despite the fact that the few dozen finds from Cyrenaica, as a whole cannot yet support statistical analysis. The issue of halved coins in Cyrenaican economy requires further study, offering the opportunity to fill in gaps in the knowledge of the economic and political life of Ptolemais and Cyrenaica in the early Imperial period, especially as each new field

---

\(^{31}\) M.H. CRAWFORD, Roman Republican Coinage, vol. 1, Cambridge 1995, no. 546 (p. 542-543), pl. LXIV.

\(^{32}\) Cf. BUTTREY, The Roman coinage of the Cyrenaica, op.cit., p. 32.

\(^{33}\) Ibidem, p. 28.

\(^{34}\) BMC Cyr, op.cit., p. cccxxiii-ccxxiv; p. 119-120 (no. 36-43, pl. XLIV.7-10).

\(^{35}\) Ibidem, p. cvii-ccvii, ccxxv (no. 48b-c, pl. XLIV.5-6).

\(^{36}\) Ibidem, p. cvii, ccxxiv-ccxxv; p. 120-121 (no. 44-48, pl. XLIV.1-4).

\(^{37}\) BUTTREY, The Roman coinage of the Cyrenaica, op.cit., p. 28-29.

\(^{38}\) Ibidem, p. 29; BMC Cyr, op.cit., p. cccxx-ccxxvi; p. 121 (no. 49-52, pl. XLIV.7-10).

\(^{39}\) Cf. T.V. BUTTREY, Halved coins, the Augustan reform, and Horace, Odes 1.3, AJA 76, 1972, p. 31-48.

\(^{40}\) A. KUNISZ, Pieniądze zastępcze i jego rolę w ekonomice państwa rzymskiego w początkach Cesariatu (27 r. p.n.e.-68 r. n.e.), Katowice 1984, p. 115, 133.

\(^{41}\) JAWORSKI, op.cit., cat. no. 67-69.

\(^{42}\) Finds of halved coins from Cyrenaica were listed by Buttrey: BUTTREY, The Roman coinage of the Cyrenaica, op.cit., p. 30, 36-37. The present author has been able to trace 36 coins, including the examples from Polish excavations, belonging to this group.

\(^{43}\) As of Marc Anthony and Cleopatra VII: JAWORSKI, op.cit., cat. no. 48.
season of the Polish mission adds to the number of known halved coins.

After Drusus struck his coin, Roman coinage in Cyrenaica disappeared for close to a century. Numerous finds in Cyrenaica (also a few dozen from Ptolemais) of silver and bronze coins of Trajan, followed by only bronze coins of Hadrian and Marcus Aurelius, the latter mostly with a characteristic image of Zeus-Amon on the reverse, point to a second important period in the history of local coinage in Roman times. Erroneous assumptions have led to these coins being attributed to a mint in the distant Cappadocian Caesarea\(^{44}\). Numismatists working in Cyrenaica have questioned this opinion in view of the fact that every dig in the region regularly yields from a few to a few dozen examples of this group of coins. Nonetheless, they have still to explain the circumstances of the introduction of these issues into circulation in Cyrenaica. That however is a question exceeding the chronological framework of this presentation.

Translated by Iwona Zych

Abbreviations

ANS MN American Numismatic Society Museum Notes
SNG Copenhagen Syllog Nummorum Graecorum, The Royal Collection of Coins and Medals, Danish National Museum

PIOTR JAWORSKI (IA UW)

**Summary**

Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the so-called Villa with a View in Ptolemais, have contributed significantly to knowledge of town history and development.

Numismatics is one field in which substantial verification as well as new evidence has been collected.

Current finds by the Polish mission, have helped to re-think Cyrenaican coinage in both the Hellenistic and Roman periods, especially with regard to local issues from the beginning of Imperial rule, which are presented in the article.

---

\(^{44}\) This status was fixed further still by Sydenham's otherwise valuable publication: E.A. SYDENHAM, *The Coinage of Caesarea in Cappadocia*, London 1933, issued again in 1978 with partly revised attributions for this group of coins.
Tabela 2. Cut coins (1/2 and 1/4) found in Cyrenaica

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Berenice¹</td>
<td>Ptolemais²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellenistic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyrene</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syracuse</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenicia</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knossos</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Republic</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Cyrenaica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Lollius</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crassus</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Pupius Rufus</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Anthony and Cleopatra</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scato</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capito</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palikanus</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiberius (Drusus)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Empire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiberius</td>
<td>(3)⁹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caligula</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 1. Bronze coin struck in Cyrene (Koinon, ca 250-246 B.C.). Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the Villa with a View in Ptolemais, drawn by A. Dłuska

Fig. 2. Halved coin of Hieron II (275-215 B.C.), struck in Syracuse, Sicily. Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the Villa with a View at Ptolemais, drawn by A. Dłuska

Fig. 3. Reverse types of small Ptolemaic bronzes struck in Cyrenaica, remained in use long after the arrival of the Romans. Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the Villa with a View in Ptolemais, drawn by A. Dłuska

Fig. 4. Halved as of L. Lollius, struck in Cyrene. Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the Villa with a View in Ptolemais, drawn by A. Dłuska

Fig. 5. Halved of Kydas (37 B.C.), struck in Knossos, Crete. Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the Villa with a View in Ptolemais, drawn by A. Dłuska

Fig. 6. Halved as of A. Pupius Rufus, struck in Cyrene. Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the Villa with a View in Ptolemais, drawn by A. Dłuska
Fig. 7. Qua drans of A. Pupius Rufus, struck in Ptolemais(?). Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the Villa with a View in Ptolemais, drawn by A. Dłuska

Fig. 8. As of P. Canidius Crassus struck in Ptolemais, features the name of the city: ITTOAEMAI. Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, drawn by A. Dłuska

Fig. 9. As of M. Anthony and Cleopatra VII, struck in Cyrenaica. Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the Villa with a View in Ptolemais, drawn by A. Dłuska

Fig. 10. Halved as of Scato, struck in Cyrene. Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the Villa with a View in Ptolemais, drawn by A. Dłuska

Fig. 11. Halved as of Palikanus, struck in Cyrene. Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology excavations at the Villa with a View in Ptolemais, drawn by A. Dłuska

Fig. 12. As of Drusus struck in Cyrenaica. Ptolemais museum, drawn by A. Dłuska