

## CYPRUS

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The last Survey of Numismatic Research, published in 2015 on the occasion of the XV International Numismatic Congress of Taormina, was compiled by MARKOU (29) and included the bibliography on Archaic, Classical and early Hellenistic Cyprus produced during the years 2007-2013. AMANDRY (1) published the same year, in his fifth bibliography on Cypriot numismatic research, the essential publications for the years 2008–2015 and included Cypriot coins that emerged in auctions.

In 2015, the books, papers or chapters related to Cypriote numismatics dated from 1836 up to 2014 (over 600 entries) were published on the website *Kyprios Character* by DESTROOPER-GEORGIADIS (11), where they are displayed as a searchable database on the section “Bibliography” of the website. The bibliography is an amended version of the bibliography that first appeared on the now obsolete website of the Research Project *CNP: Cyprus Numismatic Project*.

### **Online resources on Cypriote numismatics**

*Kyprios Character* website went live to the public in 2015 and included, except for the bibliographic database mentioned above, a series of tools for those interested in Cypriot history and numismatics. The section entitled Coin Database includes ca. 800 coins from public collections and is steadily updated with supplementary material. The section entitled Articles offers original papers in Cypriot numismatics regarding the history of the study by DESTROOPER-GEORGIADIS (12), the analytical methods used to determine the chemical composition of ancient coins by CHARALAMBOUS (4), the coinages of the kings of Cyprus from the Archaic to the early Hellenistic periods by MARKOU (28), a hoard of the 5th century discovered in Nicosia by PILIDES (42) and presents coinages of later periods such as the Ptolemaic by OLIVIER (41) and the Roman by AMANDRY (2). The aforementioned papers are offered online in Greek and English, and are accompanied by a map, related images, and a selective bibliography.

A list of open access websites that comprise coins from Cyprus has been compiled by MARKOU (36), within the framework of the research project „Cypriot connectivity in the Mediterranean from the Late Bronze Age to the end of the Classical period” (*CyCoMed*).

### **Cypriote coins and epigraphy**

A significant evolution in the collaboration of numismatics and epigraphy was to include Cypriote coins in the first fascicule of the *Inscriptiones Graecae* series allotted to the Cypriote syllabic inscriptions by MARKOU and KARNAVA (38). The first volume comprises inscriptions from the areas of Amathous, Kourion, and Marion. This is one of the rare moments in the history of the *Inscriptiones Graecae* series where coins were included by dies, a decision made due to the history of the decipherment of the Cypriote syllabary, where coins played a prominent role, and to the value of coinage to the palaeography of the Cypriot syllabic script. The lack of inscribed coins securely attributed to Kourion explains the absence of coins of this kingdom in the first fascicule (two more will follow in the future, as it has been announced by the editors).

The coinages of the kings of Amathous and Marion were included following the completion of a coin die study. For each die, a drawing of the inscription was created. Coin drawings were composed based on the testimony of multiple coin specimens produced from the same die, but surviving in various states of preservation, all of which were incorporated in the corpus and were illustrated in the tabulae section of the volume. The close collaboration in re-reading coin legends allowed not only the definition of the variations of the different dies used to mint the surviving coins from a paleographical point of view, but also to further regulate previous erroneous readings. For the coinage of Amathous, it was concluded that the royal name Epipalos (e-pi-pa-lo, Ἐπίπαλο(ς)), has to be corrected to Apipalos (a-pi-pa-lo, Ἀπιπάλο(ς)). For the coinage of Marion, the patronymic of the king of Marion Sasma, which was thought to be Doxandros (to-ka-sa-to-ro), has been amended to Lysandros (to lu-sa-to-ro).

### **Gold, silver and bronze coinages of the kings of Cyprus**

A supplementary review of the monograph on the gold coinage of the kings of Cyprus by MARKOU (25) was published by DESTROOPER-GEORGIADES (13).

A history of Cyprus seen through the numismatic evidence appeared in a bilingual monograph, in Greek and in English, by MARKOU (27) intending to produce a revised manual of Cypriote coinage in its historical context for both the specialised and the general public alike, with a particular focus on students (reviews by HERMARY (22) and KAGAN (24)). A paper by MARKOU (33) also tackled the question of incorporating numismatics into historical studies; using Cyprus as an example, the author presented cases of using and misusing the testimony of coins, singling out the coinages minted by Evelthon's successors at Salamis and the *sigloi* with the sign 'ko' that were attributed wrongly to Golgoi.

The question of the diversity of Cypriote coinage of the classical period was addressed by DESTROOPER-GEORGIADES (16) who explored the similarities and the differences of the metals, weight standards, types, languages, scripts and circulation of the 5th and 4th century Cypriote coins. The author stressed the cultural context of the harmonisation of monetary practices in the eastern Mediterranean during the mid 4th c.

DESTROOPER-GEORGIADES (7) assessed the coinages minted by the kings of Cyprus representing new types or preserving the types used before Alexander III that were struck in the period from 323 down to the end of the century and their removal by Ptolemy I. While kings, such as Pumayyaton of Kition, perpetuated the iconography of their predecessors, Praxippos of Lapethos and Stasioikos of Marion introduced new types that further reveal the militarised conditions of the period.

The coinage of Amathous has been revisited by MARKOU (34), who briefly presented the entire monetary series and assembled the coins that circulated in auctions during the years 2009–2015. The author started a new discussion on two dubious issues: the attribution of the so-called 'Evagoras I' silver issues with the Greek letter 'E' and the dating of the so-called 'Rhoikos' series with the Cypriot syllabic sign "ro". She concluded that the 'Evagoras I' series should be credited to an Amathousian king E (-) and not to the king of Salamis who supposedly issued coins at Amathous, while the 'Rhoikos' series should be dated to the beginning and not the middle of the 4th century.

The coinage of Paphos has been the focus of two papers. MARKOU (32) restored the list of the kings of Paphos through the combined study of the available literary, epigraphic and numismatic evidence offering statistics on the names of the kings of Paphos and the primary sources they occur on (coins, inscriptions and literature). It is astonishing that ten—maybe eleven—of the eighteen known kings have been identified solely from the coins they produced; only two are mentioned in the ancient texts and seven in the surviving inscriptions. This is a solid argument for the vital input of the numismatic evidence for the ruling dynasties in Cyprus, their succession, and their chronological framework, often unmentioned in the other primary sources.

DESTROOPER-GEORGIADES (8) presented the coin legends that comprise the word "Paphos" in Greek, abbreviated in one, two or four letters, referring to the habitants or the coinage of Paphos. She considered the rare issues of Nikokles with the legend ΠΑΦΙΟΝ and the iconography of the female figure on the obverse who might illustrate, according to the author, the local divinity Paphia.

The questionable rare coinage of Nikokles, the last king of Paphos, of the so-called 'distaters' with the head of Aphrodite on the obverse, and Apollo on the omphalos and the legend ΝΙΚΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ ΠΑΦΙΟΝ on the reverse is the subject of a paper by WEISS (43). Although the author collects and explores the surviving coins, there are some serious arguments on why the authenticity of the specimens is still problematic, as was also suggested by IOSSIF (23).

For Salamis, MARKOU (35) offered an overview of the coinages of the 5th and 4th centuries, focusing on the classical coinage of Evagoras I and that of his successors down to the annihilation of the kingdom and kingship by Ptolemy I by 306. The author examined the numismatic policy regarding iconography and weight standards of the gold and silver royal issues. As a starting point for his research, GENNADIU (21) examined a type with the clear legend in Cypriot syllabic script "ku-ru-ko" that has appeared in auctions since 2017. Based on historical, numismatic and linguistic criteria, he proposed to read the name of the Salaminian king Gorgos of the early 5th century, mentioned by Herodotus (Γόργος). He argued that sign "ku", when it appears on its own, has to be understood as the abbreviation of Gorgos' name and not the initial of the word "Κυπρίων" (meaning King of Cypriots), as was suggested in the past.

Regarding Kition, DESTROOPER-GEORGIADES (10) published a lead piece with the types of the bronze coins of

Pumayyaton with the lion and the horse and engaged in the discussion on the use of lead pieces as prototypes of coin types, bringing forward other examples from Idalion and Salamis.

MARKOU (26) addressed the symbols on Cypriot coinages, their inspiration and their diffusion, focusing specifically on those associated to the cultures and cults of the Near East, such as the ankh, the sign of Tanit, the winged solar disc, the disc and crescent and the astragalos or knucklebone. While the ankh and the winged solar disc seem to refer to royal power in various kingdoms, the sign of Tanit suggests strong links to the Phoenician culture of the island and is retained on the coinages of the kings employing only Phoenician legends on their coins and ruling in kingdoms with strong Phoenician presence, such as Kition and Lapethos.

A number of papers tackled gods, heroes and their iconographic depictions on the coinages of the Cypriot kings. The myths displayed on the coins of Cyprus were the subject of a paper by MARKOU (31). The adoption, adaptation and diffusion on Cypriote coinages of Pan-Hellenic heroes, such as Herakles, and of Pan-Hellenic myths, such as that of Phrixos with the ram and of Europa on the bull was linked to the iconography of artifacts from Cyprus, Greece and the other areas of the Mediterranean.

Iconography and coin legends of Marion were similarly the subject of a survey by DESTROOPER-GEORGIADIS (19), who determined that the recipients of the coinages minted by the kings of Marion over the course of 150 years were acquainted with the scripts and the images on the coins, adapted to the various uses of the different metals and denominations.

The representations of Aphrodite on the coins of Cyprus were examined by MARKOU (30). Focusing on the characteristics and the local particularities of Aphrodite on Cypriote coinages of the archaic and classical periods she determined that regarding Aphrodite in Cyprus, it is the local context and not just the decorative elements that establish the identification of the goddess. The paper was published in the honorary volume for Jacqueline Karageorghis, the “Kypromedousa” of Cypriot archaeology, who passed away in 2018. Another significant loss for Cypriot archaeology, epigraphy and numismatics in that same year was that of Ino Nicolaou, whose numismatic works were presented by AMANDRY and MARKOU (3, 40) in her obituary. A substantial loss for the numismatic world in 2015 was as well that of Mando Oeconomides, former Director of the Numismatic Museum in Athens. A two-day symposium was organised in her memory in Athens the following year, where DESTROOPER-GEORGIADIS (18) presented on Mando’s connection with Cyprus and Cypriot numismatics. She further revealed the information Mando had provided her on a Greek private collection that included Cypriot coins, some unique, others rare and still others in an outstanding state of preservation.

Cyprus and Crete, in the centre of the commercial sea routes of the Eastern Mediterranean, were the subject of a paper by MARKOU and STEFANAKI (39), where the similarities and differences in the monetary practices of the archaic, classical and early Hellenistic periods were explored. Although the authors attest that on both islands there was extensive overstriking and/or countermarking of local and foreign silver coins, that minting was mainly related to military needs, and that there is a rich repertoire of mythological scenes and mythological and imaginary creatures found on the coinages, the differences between the islands’ coinage are significant. This is due to the contrasting political configurations, the different economies, and the different weight standards, metals, and areas of circulation that delineated different paths for each from the archaic to the Hellenistic period.

#### **Portable XRF analysis on Cypriote coinages**

XRF analysis have been performed on two groups of coins in the past years, with the effective engagement of the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus. The first study by MARKOU *et al.* (37) undertook the analysis of gold coins from the collections of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus (27 coins) and of the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation’s coin collection (21 coins) using portable XRF spectrometry. The study added 48 coins to the list of the 52 coins previously analysed via different methods in MARKOU (25) and verified that they have a high percentage of gold exceeding 97%. An exception to this observation is the gold coinage of Evagoras I of Salamis that has a low percentage of gold and an increased percentage of silver and mainly copper, confirming that he manipulated the gold coinage, both in the alloy and in the weight, in order to face specific needs in a moment of crisis during his reign.

The second paper by CHARALAMBOUS *et al.* (5) offered the elemental analysis of 436 silver coins from the Larnaca Hoard (*IGCH* 1272) minted by kings of Kition, Idalion, Lapethos, Paphos, Salamis and by kings ruling in unidentified Cypriot locales. This was the first time that non-destructive XRF analysis has been undertaken on this scale on Cypriot

coins, also important for the number of contemporary coinages from various local mints that were buried together in a secure archaeological context. The study's purpose was to determine the coins' composition and to identify the silver alloys chosen for their manufacture. Although the authors were aware of the limitations of the portable XRF technique regarding surface versus bulk composition, the analysis revealed that coins issued from different mints were made from a similar silver-copper alloy. It also exposed the attempt of the mints to increase the hardness of the alloy and to improve its casting and minting processing by adding copper, as well as the very efficient refining process seen in the percentage of the lead concentration. The results of the analysis suggested also that the silver of most of the coins was probably processed from argentiferous galena, the closest source to Cyprus being the Laurion mine in Attica. This could be a source for at least part of the raw metal used for the specific coins, but other silver sources cannot be excluded without further investigation.

#### **Hoards, excavation finds and coin circulation**

The 19 coins that were discovered in the excavations of Alassa were published by DESTROOPER-GEORGIADES (14) in the voluminous work that covers the excavation seasons (1984–2000) of the Late Bronze Age sites of Alassa and Paliotaverna. The great majority of the coins were minted in the Middle Ages. Only one coin of Paphos, a sixth of *siglos*, dated ca. 440–400 BC, was amongst the excavation finds.

The 855 bronze coins discovered in 24 consecutive years (1975–1998) of excavations at Kourion by the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus were published by CHRISTOU (6). Out of these, four coins were minted by Kourion, two by Salamis and 18 coins by Alexander III. DESTROOPER-GEORGIADES (15) stressed the importance of the discovery of coins in the excavations, highlighting the case of Kourion and the secure attribution, notably of the bronzes that constitute most of the material collected.

#### **Public and private collections**

The formation of the collection of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus and the evaluation of this unique collection and the importance of publication to preserve the cultural heritage of the island is in the focus of a paper by DESTROOPER-GEORGIADES (9), which was published in the collective volume in honour of Tasos Tzamalīs.

The Charles Godfrey Gunther collection of ancient Cypriote coins, preserved in the Cyprus Museum in Nicosia, was published by DESTROOPER-GEORGIADES (17). The collection originally included 2,286 coins dating from the period of the kingdoms to the Lusignan era in Cyprus. The author addressed the history of the collection and catalogues the 67 coins of the archaic and classical periods that she could track down in the Cyprus Museum; roughly 288 coins of the collection being presently in the collection of the American Numismatic Society in New York. She discussed particular types and offered a complete catalogue and plates with images of the casts.

DESTROOPER-GEORGIADES (20) also published the coins in the collection of the S.O.F.I.A. Foundation in Nicosia, along with a part of the Photos Photiades collection. The author presented seven gold, silver, and bronze coins from the period of the Cypriote kingdoms.

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