

THE PLANCHET

EDMONTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

May/June 2013

Volume 60 Issue 3

L.C. Sulla Marches on Rome



TETRADRACHMS
Ancient Kyme





2011 - 2nd Place
ANA Outstanding Local
Club Publication Award



2010 - 1st Place
RCNA Best Local
Newsletter



THE PLANCHET

May/June 2013

Volume 60 Issue 3

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The Planchet Team:

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ON THE COVER:

<http://forums.totalwar.org> Screenshot of Rome: Total War, depicting a Roman civil war.

Aeolis, Kyme Tetradrachm – Posthumous Alexander type; Aeolis, Kyme Tetradrachm – Civic Amazon type, from "Ancient Kyme - Where Alexander Met an Amazon" in this issue.

Disclaimer: The opinions herein are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the Edmonton Numismatic Society. The editors, at their sole discretion, reserve the right to accept or refuse any material submitted for publication.

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Message from the President

David Peter 2010-14



Once again summer is upon us and we are weeks away from the annual BBQ. It's always an event that I look forward to, giving me the opportunity to socialize with members and their guests. This year I have the opportunity to host the BBQ at my home, and I hope to see you all there.

In recent numismatic news, I was interested to learn that PCGS is once again offering educational seminars for numismatics at the upcoming Long Beach Coin, Stamp and Sports Expo in Long Beach, California. Their two seminars which are "Coin Grading 101, Introduction to Grading: Circulated and Mint State Coins," and "Coin Grading 102, Advanced Grading Techniques: Qualifiers, Proof Coins and High Grade Moderns," were both very popular this spring and gave newcomers and veterans of the hobby an opportunity to learn grading from one of the most recognized grading services in the industry. It is always encouraging to find new educational opportunities.

David

@ The Next Meeting Wednesday, September 11, 2013



Royal Alberta Museum, 12845 - 102 Avenue
Meeting Start Time 7:15pm

The ENS wishes all members and their families have a wonderful summer.

See you at the Summer BBQ

For more information regarding these events, or to add an item to the agenda please send an email to editor_ens@yahoo.ca
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About Your Society

ENS Meeting May 8, 2013

Mark Bink opened meeting at 7:13. President David Peter was absent.

- The annual ENS BBQ will be at the club president's house, 1748 - 48A Street in Millwoods on July 14, 2013, arrive 4-4:30. Bring your own chairs, BYOB, bring a dessert or anything else to share.

- The diamond jubilee token for the club's 60th anniversary we want to have struck and ready for the next show in NBS and in silver. Silver cost will be **\$65.00 each**, and if we do gold plated, they will be **80.00 each**. NBS cost is not known yet. Each will have a \$5 value which can be redeemed at the show and will be about the size of a traditional trade dollar. Six designs were proposed, and the board voted to go with variety 5. The diamond would be frosted. The obverse will have the club logo with the pick and shovel. A vote was placed for the variety to go with, and a majority chose 5. A list was passed around seeking members who wanted a silver version.

- The club bought some new software for *The Planchet* to help make the editing process easier.

- A 1936 dot cent just sold for \$242,000, when compared to US coins with a small population (3) would sell for \$ millions. Part of the reason is because there is not enough research completed and published on Canadian

coins. We encourage members to write about Canadian coins. *The Planchet* does not have much Canadian content, and we would like to get a dedicated columnist. Anyone interested please come and talk to the executive. There are a lot of people in the club that will help you to get started.

- The executive met and talked about a legacy project for doing a book which contains the best of *The Planchet* and commemorates 60 years of the ENS. If anyone has past ENS history, we would like to get it from him/her. To build a history of the club we would like to know who people were, hear interesting stories, see old show photos, etc. Also please let us know of any older or current members the club could interview about their memories.

- With the show this November, do we want to have a display theme? Club commemorative themes will be welcome for the show or any other type of display. Anyone who wants to display can contact Terry.

- Presentation, Pierre - "Wilhelmina - Queen of the Netherlands 1890 - 1948 - in coins and video."

- Marc's presentation will be carried forward to a future meeting.

- Ermin Chow is running for RCNA Alberta Director in the election in July.

- Door prizes drawn.

- The meeting was adjourned.

ENS Board

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Rising Sun Eclipsed

By Marc Bink



I don't remember when it was that I decided to collect Japanese coins. I think I got my first one when my family visited Japan back in the '70s, or it may have been earlier. To a twelve-year-old, the ability to have a couple of thousand in your hand was pretty neat. But that was before I discovered the wads of worthless paper that was the Italian lira. Either way, here were some coins that were worth hundreds of something and didn't cost much real money to own. It didn't buy a whole lot either, if I remember correctly. Japan as a whole was a neat place; it was super-modern and very well kept. There was nothing older than 5 years old anywhere one looked. Everything was clean and orderly. Having been brought up touring old European churches and castles, I found the lack of anything historic a little weird. But I also found that while Japan was an ultra-modern cosmopolitan state, it possessed a very old and interesting culture. The spark had been laid; Japan had interested me, and pretty soon, I was reading up on Japanese history, and that of course meant gathering up the only pieces of history that a person can hold on to, coins!

The modern coinage doesn't do much for me. It's pretty boring and pedestrian. Like most things in modern Japan, it has a purpose, and that's it. The older stuff made from the end of the Meiji Restoration until World War II was much prettier and very elaborate for a circulating currency. I would consider the 10 Sen pieces minted during

the 20s and 30s as some of the most beautiful pieces of modern coinage "art" that I have seen. Granted, it's not like Greek Imperial coinage from the Classical Period, but for a modern circulating coinage, it's very pretty, and the designs are very elaborate. They were probably expensive to produce, and they probably didn't wear very



10 Sen, 1926, (Taisho yr. 15) Like the 5 Sen of the same issue, probably one of the prettiest designs ever made. Very detailed and very intricate, this coin was probably a real challenge to mint. This coin is made out of copper-nickel.



1 Sen from 1937, (Showa yr.12), this type was made from 1917 until 1938.

well which would account for why they weren't minted for very long. The period when these coins were made corresponds with the rise and fall of the Japanese Empire as a military force. As with any country I've researched, it's amazing how a society's culture, rise and fall can be studied through the coinage that was left behind. This period of Japanese history is fairly interesting, and like the coinage, it's dark, controversial and yet in a weird way, very appealing. Now I am also not insensitive to the fact that a few of our readers may still harbour scars from this period. I'm not offering any apologies for it, but the story does warrant telling.

When we left Japan at the end of my last Japanese article (Rising Sun Ascendant), the Meiji Restoration had transformed the country from a self-sufficient feudal/agrarian system into a modern "Western"-style constitutional monarchy based on the German model. Certainly, there were a few differences. There were no western countries by that point in time that regarded their emperors as divine or inspired by God. Well, that's not totally true either; there were the Russians, and that's where we'll start re-entering Japanese history.

In 1903, the Russians were looking to expand their empire. They needed a warm-water port, so they more or less occupied Manchuria. Prior to this, the Chinese and the Japanese got into a brief war in 1894-5, with the Japanese defeating and destroying most of the Chinese fleet. The problem with this little war was the fact that while the Japanese did all the work, all the other European powers flooded in and took over the real-estate. Being the principle benefactors of this, the Russians then commenced building a railway to connect their new lease-hold of Port Arthur with the rest of the Trans-Siberian railway. The Japanese saw this as encroaching on their

new sphere of influence, the Korean peninsula. Negotiations commenced, but soon afterwards, the Russians let them drop. The reason was simply because, like most Europeans, they didn't consider the Japanese a credible fighting force or even really civilized. They looked at the Japanese as a bunch of little Asiatic savages who were more content to chop off heads or slit their bellies than to appreciate Tolstoy or Tchaikovsky or anything "civilized". The Japanese, however, soon exhausted the diplomatic tract and went about exploring other

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5 Sen, 1936, (Showa yr. 11) This coin should be bronze, it's tarnished a dull jet black but still exhibits a lot of detail. I've never seen bronze tone like this except in a super-high heat reaction. Could this coin have come from Hiroshima or Nagasaki?

alternatives. Soon the Russians forgot about the Japanese problem and, like most things in Russia, hoped that it would go away if it was ignored. The Japanese had other plans. They surprised the Russians by attacking and sinking the Russian fleet at Port Arthur and then declaring war. Sound familiar?

To make a long story short, the Japanese soundly beat the Russians and humiliated them. Russia was thrown into revolution, and the seeds for the destruction of the Tsar and the Imperial Russian government were sown. All the Tchaikovskys in the world weren't going to stop this problem from running its course. But it wasn't all

chrysanthemums and cherry blossoms in Japan either. Even though the Japanese won the war, they felt they had lost face by not being taken seriously by the rest of the world's powers. This would sow the seeds of their eventual destruction in the form of nationalism and militarism. The Japanese vowed never to be treated as a second-class power again. So they bought more ships, sent more of their people abroad to be educated and eventually built a first class navy. By the outbreak of World War I in Europe in 1914, the Japanese were considered to be 6th in terms of naval power, which was stronger than both Russia and Austro-Hungary. Because of an earlier alliance with the British Crown, the Japanese were quietly

allowed to encroach and take over German possessions in Asia during and after the First World War. The British also provided the technical jump-start and the officer-training that would eventually allow the Japanese to build a formidable navy that would seriously test the larger and dominant American Navy during World War II. The consequences of the Russo-Japanese conflict basically set the stage for what was to end with Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, a full 40 years later.

By the end of the First World War, the Japanese were chomping at the bit. They needed more real-estate to feed their increasing population and economy. Still in debt to the West for the Russian adventure, they had incurred more debt by buying foreign technology and sending their citizens abroad

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5 Sen, 1942, (Showa yr. 17); This coin is made from aluminum and is typical of what was made during World War II.

to study. They saw conquering and subduing the Chinese in Manchuria as their only solution. After the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia, a sort of vacuum was created, and all of the old Russian foreign possessions were either abandoned or quietly sold off. The Japanese accomplished this conquest through a combination of force and diplomacy. They took advantage of the fact that Europe and the rest of the world powers had had enough of war and wouldn't be too motivated to back the Chinese. In 1931, the Japanese installed a puppet government in Manchuria, which was then renamed "Manchukuo". Now the Japanese had a foothold on the continent and access to natural resources such as oil. But they didn't just stop with taking over and occupying Manchuria, they decided they would take over more territory and began moving beyond Manchuria into the rest of China. Thus began 6 years of "incidents" which infuriated the rest of the world, particularly the United States, one of China's major allies. These "incidents" that took place were actually planned Japanese incursions into Chinese held territories. The Nationalist government in China was weak, outgunned and plagued with internecine fighting. Chiang Kai-shek, the Nationalist leader, appealed to the West and the League of Nations in Geneva, as well as Washington all throughout the 30s. The newly formed League of Nations was supposed to take care of the problem but only showed its impotence by issuing edicts and sanctions that were politely ignored by the Japanese. Japan eventually withdrew from the League in 1932. Japanese indifference to the League demonstrated to the new Fascist regimes in both Italy and Germany that there were no repercussions for bad behaviour. Full-blown war erupted between Japan and China in 1937 and continued on until the Japanese capitulated in 1945. The British and the French had been exhausted and essentially

bankrupted by World War I and as such let the Japanese have a free hand in Asia as long as the Japanese didn't infringe on their interests. The Japanese complied for the most part. But the clouds were beginning to gather and grow darker.

Other events within Japan contributed to the rise of militarism. One was the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. On September 1, 1923, just before noon an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale destroyed Tokyo and Yokohama. In 4 minutes, large areas were completely leveled and soon on fire. It was the firestorm that caused most of the 142,000 casualties. The effects of the earthquake on the Japanese psyche and politics were to have repercussions for years to come. Politically, Japan swung to the right. Ethnic groups (such as Koreans) were persecuted and killed, and responsible government began to lose its grip as the Army gained influence. The Japanese economy was in a shambles, a lot of the major industries and banks were physically and financially destroyed. A prior banking crisis had more or less destroyed consumer confidence, and the earthquake just finished it off. Money got "tight". Punitive tariffs on foreign goods and restrictions on imports were established in order

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5 Sen, 1946, (Showa yr. 21) This coin was made immediately after World War II and was made from a weird alloy of zinc and tin. The result is a coin that feels and performs almost like lead, it's that soft.

to keep Japanese money in Japan and entice people to buy locally. It also provided a much-needed source of foreign exchange or "hard" currency in later years. Ford Motor Car Co, which had a sort of a monopoly on car sales in Japan prior to the earthquake, was pretty much driven out. Companies such as Mazda, Isuzu and Mitsubishi began to fill the void left by the exiting foreign companies. Local "zaibatsus", or large industrial combines, were beginning to form and influence government. Although Japan did receive aid from the rest of the world after the earthquake, the Japanese realized that in order to survive events such as these, they needed a more home-grown economy and enough "controlled" foreign assets to support it. Since the island of Japan had no natural resources of its own, that meant going elsewhere since they were critically and chronically short of oil.

This swell of nationalism is reflected in the coinage. When the old Emperor Meiji died in 1912, most Japanese coins had both Japanese and English legends on them. The denomination was stated in English, everything else was in Japanese. This started to change with the first Taisho issues in the late teens. More cherry blossoms and chrysanthemums started appearing. Devices got more interesting as incuse and different types of frosting were experimented with. It would appear that the first major change to the Japanese coinage occurred in 1916 or Year 6 of the Taisho Era. The first new issues of 1 Sen and 5 Sen were introduced. These coins had no English legends on them; they were purely Japanese. Both of these coins were smaller than the previous Meiji influenced series was. The 5 Sen had a hole in it. Both of these series of coins were made until 1938. The composition of the 5 Sen coin changed during

this period; it went from being a Cupro-nickel coin to a pure nickel coin, then bronze and finally aluminum. Initially bronze, the 1 Sen coin was replaced by a much smaller aluminum chip during the war. The last issues were made in a weird and very pliable tin-zinc alloy, and the very last was made out of a baked reddish clay. The 5 Sen issue followed much the same course during the Second World War. Because of the high nickel¹ content, the issue made from 1933 until 1938 was recalled, and a large portion of it was probably melted down during the war. Mintage figures for most of the years issued are very high, and the value of these coins is cheap. Like most European issues of the same period, I would suspect the values are probably understated, and the number of coins still extant is probably a great deal less than the figures indicate. The rarest of the lot is the 1938 (yr.13) 5 Sen; it had a mintage of 10,000,000, but only 4 pieces are known to exist. The rest were recalled and melted down.

The 10 Sen coin (Y # 45²) introduced in 1920 (yr.9) is in my opinion the most interesting and is arguably amongst one of the most beautiful circulating coins ever struck. It replaced a small dime-sized silver coin that dated from the previous reign. The new issue was larger and also had a hole in it. It had a mirror-like flower design in the center surrounded by waves on the obverse and a complex wreath with the chrysanthemum and the value on the reverse. Held up to a variable light, the coin radiates back differently every time. Striking these things must have been a nightmare.

¹ Nickel was considered a "strategic" metal by most of the belligerents during the war. It is a major component of stainless steel and armour plate. It also has numerous uses in the armament industry.

² All "Y" numbers are quoted from: George Cuhaj et al, **2011 Standard catalog of World Coins**, (Krause Publications, 2011; Section on Japan), p.1278



5 Sen, 1920, (Taisho yr. 9) One of the prettiest coins ever made; the design is very intricate on the obverse. The field surrounding the chrysanthemum is comprised of waves which can be seen if the coin is tilted at a certain light, much like the modern Royal Canadian Mint security devices on the Loonies and Twoonies.

The die life must have been very short because of the complexity of the design and the softness of the material used. This issue was made until 1932, with only the emperor's name and era changing after 1926. The next issue (Y# 54, 1933-37) featured a complex wave-like design which was probably also pretty difficult to strike. It's not as pretty as the first design. The 50 Sen coins (Y # 46, 50) were the only ones struck in silver during this period, and they were not as elaborate. They featured a set of Phoenixes on the reverse side that was interesting to look at. But the chrysanthemum theme was a carry-over from the Meiji issue. It seems that there was a devaluation of the Yen immediately after the First World War, because the amount of silver in the 50 Sen coin changed, the 20 Sen was dropped, and the 10 Sen was minted as a larger coin but in cupro-nickel. The silver content in the 50 Sen coin dropped from 0.800 to 0.720. The Japanese returned to the old pre-war "Gold Standard" right after World War I but were unable to maintain it. The banking system was a confused mess. This is reflected by the huge proliferation of Japanese banknotes that were made prior to the currency reform of 1948 as well as the changing metal content. Japan quietly abandoned the "Gold Standard" in 1931 right after the British did, and started to try and reign in inflation by diverting huge amounts to the military by way of armaments companies. The Japanese were able to quietly finance a crack air force and a super-modern navy without the rest of the world appreciating what they had accomplished. Not to mention, they had an area to test and refine this equipment, so they got good value for the money.

Another interesting thing about Japanese coins is that a "portrait" style coin has never been issued. Not one coin has ever featured a real person on it. Any depictions of people are abstracted to a certain degree, even on modern issues. The Western concept of placing a depiction of the ruling monarch was never carried over to Japan. The monarchy was considered a gift from god, and placing politicians or anyone else on a coin in the Western tradition was considered apostasy to the Emperor. No one was supposed to have possession of an image or effigy of the Emperor. In fact, prior to the end of the Second World War, commoners were supposed to bow down to the ground and never view their Emperor. No one knew what he looked like. They were to bow before any photographs of him, regardless of whether it appeared in a newspaper or in some public place. In the case of the police or military standing at attention, soldiers and sentries were to turn their backs to him when he drove by. This practice almost got Hirohito killed. Whenever Hirohito conducted a public review, people bowed low to divert their gaze. It was not considered good form to lock eyes with a god, and even as late as the Meiji era, one could be beheaded for just that.

And what of the Emperor, what was his role in all of this? The Emperor Meiji³ was content to let 3 The Japanese never refer to an Emperor by his birth-name. After he ascends the throne, he is just known as "the Emperor", His Majesty" and so on, but never again by name. The regnal era in which he lives is given a name. In the case of Hirohito it was "Showa", and the current Emperor's era is known as Heisei, which then becomes the name he is personally known by. The date on a coin is then identified, for example, "Heisei year 5", never a Christian date. The Japanese do business by the Christian calendar but date coins by regnal era.




10 Sen, 1935, (Showa yr.10) This one was not quite as pretty as the previous issue. It still has the same design elements, it's just that they are somewhat simplified.

his government rule things, but he did maintain a hands-on style of government after he initiated his reforms in 1868. The Meiji Constitution dictated to what extent the Sovereign could and should intervene in government. It was all loosely patterned off the Prussian model of government. Apparently this model best suited the Japanese need for control and preserved the role of the upper class. It allowed the Emperor a lot of latitude to intervene and sack governments if he so chose. Meiji's son Yoshihito, the Emperor Taisho, was at first involved, but recurring illness and a perceived mental illness made things difficult. His son Hirohito was more or less Regent from about 1921 until he ascended the throne as Emperor Showa in 1926. Hirohito⁴ was very hands-on, and as such, he was a bit of a public relations disaster and the subject of controversy after he ascended the throne.

Hirohito received a bit of education. He studied marine biology as a hobby and apparently was pretty good at it. But for the most part, he had no real formal education that we would understand or appreciate here in the west. After all, he was in line to become a god, so he didn't need to know

4 Hirohito, 1901-1989, was the 124th Emperor of Japan. His regnal era was known as "Showa", which meant "Abundant Benevolence", something he was quite full of. Hirohito was cast as a pacifist; he was not, he was just cautious. After the war he was forced to surrender his divinity. He then became a sort of "people's emperor", and tried to do what other constitutional monarchs the world over had been doing; attending openings of garden fairs, etc. Somehow that didn't resonate well with the Japanese people after the war, so his public appearances became few and far between. The constitutional reform of 1946 limited his power, so he then took up marine biology and actually became quite good at it; there are a number of credible papers published in his name.

anything. He knew it already, and he had people to think for him. He was regent when the Four Power deal divided up spheres of influence in the Pacific. By this time, Japan had the 9th largest economy and the 3rd largest navy in the world. The military was gaining momentum, democratic traditions and the rule of law was beginning to slip. An assassination attempt on Hirohito led to a security crackdown, and a financial crisis in the late 20s led to the beginning of the end of moderate civilian government in Japan. The world-wide Depression of 1929 hit Japan hard. By 1932, the assassination of Prime Minister Tsuyoshi meant that civilian control over the military was lost. A military revolt in 1936 was quashed by the Emperor himself at the head of his personal guard. Even though he is viewed by many historians today as benign, Hirohito had blood on his hands. By 1941, the military had won total control over the government. The US, in protest to Japan's continued belligerence in China decided to more or less blockade Japan by freezing its foreign reserves and shutting off the oil tap. The US did this in order to entice Japan back to the bargaining table;

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50 Sen, first Taisho issue, yr. 6, (1917) This coin was about the size of a Loonie and made in good silver. It was the last such issue to have a high silver content in it; subsequent issues were smaller and had less silver content. It's also the last Japanese issue to feature an English legend.



**Portrait of Inukai Tsuyoshi (1855 – 1932)
Date before 1932**

**Source Japanese book Kinsei Meishi Shashin
vol.1, Published in 1934 – 1935**

it wanted the Japanese out of China and a stop put to the increasing Japanese military threat to the security of Asia. Needless to say this tactic didn't work too well, and the Japanese had other plans.

Hirohito was regarded by many as a pacifist. However, this is misleading. He was just very cautious and calculating. He only had the interests of his empire at heart, and that meant, if necessary, going to war. As well, he was fully apprised of the situation unfolding between the Americans and the Japanese government. He fully supported the efforts his government was making. He sacked a Prime Minister for being "too conservative" when dealing with the United States. He was also aware that because of their involvement with the European war, the British were in no situation to help out the Americans, if Japan decided to flex its military muscles in the Pacific. He approved of the Axis Tripartite Agreement signed with Germany and Italy in 1940. The only thing Hirohito did not do was command troops. But he paid people to do that for him, and the price of failure was steep. It was a huge calculated gamble to go to war. Prime Minister Tojo⁵ had the full confidence of his Emperor by the time the decision was made, and the code "Climb Mount Niitake" ("Niitakayama nobore") was given, signaling the navy to begin attacking Pearl Harbor. This time the Japanese wanted to play by the 5 Hideki Tojo, 1884-1948, Japanese General and Prime Minister of Japan from 1941-44. A closet Fascist, Tojo was heavily involved in convincing the Emperor that war was necessary and managed to gain his confidence. He was dismissed by Hirohito, once it became apparent that the war was lost. After American soldiers entered his office, he attempted to commit suicide, but missed. He was patched up and sent to trial where he was convicted and executed by a War Crimes Tribunal. Some say he "took the fall" for the Emperor, who probably should have been arraigned as well.



50Sen, Second Taisho issue, yr. 12, (1922) The coin is now reduced in size to about the same size as a modern quarter, and is made from debased silver. Like the other Taisho issues, what the coins now lack in metallic content was made up for in design. Note the Phoenixes on the reverse.

rules and formally declare war before the attack. However, the long-awaited response to the last American note was dispatched to Embassy staff on Saturday, December 6th, and had to be translated and typed into English. It was a long document, and the secretaries had been given the weekend off, so the aide to the ambassador was left to try to hammer it out himself. He was a one-finger typist with English as a second language, so the document, plus the infamous last page, wasn't finished until well after Pearl was bombed. This little faux-pas pretty much cost the Japanese the war before it even got started; American public indignation was incredible, and Roosevelt seized on it to whip the country into a war frenzy. The Japanese, like so many other countries and organizations, totally misread American sentiments and miscalculated. Apparently, the Americans were supposed to just lie down and die or quake in fear at Japan's military capacity. It didn't quite work out that way. Sound familiar?

One man, who did understand Americans, was Isoroku Yamamoto⁶. He understood that the next few Japanese attacks would have to be quick, hard hitting and do terminal damage, otherwise the war

would be lost. After the battle at Midway on June 7, 1942, he understood that it was pretty much all over. He felt duty bound to explain the failure to the Emperor and insinuated that negotiations should be opened. Hirohito was not pleased and decided not to listen. As penance for failure, Yamamoto was quietly shipped to a section of the front far away from Tokyo. This eventually proved to be the undoing of the Japanese navy. However, by 1943, the situation in the Pacific had deteriorated to the point where the Japanese were on the defensive. So what did our erstwhile Emperor do? He ordered Japanese civilians on Saipan to commit suicide rather than be taken captive by the Americans. Some 10,000 people obeyed their Emperor and jumped off the cliffs while the Americans looked on in horror. He also expected essentially everybody in Japan to be prepared to give up their own lives for him; and his people willingly obeyed. It was starting to seriously cost the Americans in combat losses as well. The US army could see that the invasion of the Home Islands of Japan would be a fierce fight to the last man and very, very costly in terms of human lives. This provided a convenient excuse to drop a couple of nasty atom bombs. Thankfully, Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain the only cities where the "Bomb" was ever used in human history. Now if Patton or MacArthur would have had their say in the matter, that event probably would have been the start of a short but brutal campaign that would have resulted in about half the world being laid to waste in a nuclear hell.

The new "Japanese Co-Prosperity Sphere" that was created by the Japanese at the beginning of the

⁶ Isoroku Yamamoto, 1884-1943, Admiral and Commander in Chief of the Japanese Navy. Yamamoto was educated at Harvard, so he fully understood the economic potential of the United States and the psyche of the people there. He engineered Japan's attack plans against the US and was considered the most resourceful asset the Japanese had in the navy. After the Japanese defeat at Midway, he was relegated to second-string duties. At the order of the US president, a small force of P-38 Lightnings was dispatched to try to intercept his aircraft as he flew between engagements. They were finally successful on April 18, 1943, when Yamamoto's aircraft was shot down, and he was killed.



50 Sen, Showa issue, yr.11, (1936) The same coin as before except with Showa titles and legends.

war was basically a PR exercise designed to try and entice conquered people into believing that they had been liberated from the "imperialist West". At first, the Japanese were successful in touting "Asia for Asians". But as the plundering and atrocities increased, most countries under Japanese rule began to rebel and aid the Allies. And the atrocities did mount; from the "Death March in Bataan in the Philippines in 1942, to the savage treatment of prisoners of war and civilians in occupied countries, the Japanese wound up leaving quite an impression on the rest of the world.

The Japanese printed tons of occupation currencies all in the guise of cooperation, but in actuality, it was just a license to loot and pillage the occupied territories of natural resources for Japan's benefit. All of these currencies were pegged to the Yen and not backed by anything concrete. Things of any value (such as national gold reserves) were plundered, sent to Japan and "remitted" back in occupation currency. Not one of these currencies was redeemable or honored after the war, so anyone who had huge sums tied up in them was immediately bankrupted and saddled with huge amounts of worthless paper after the Japanese capitulation in 1945. Last year, the ENS managed to acquire about 40,000 Philippine Pesos in Occupation currency which we've been doling out to kids and anyone who's interested at shows or club functions. While the notes are interesting conversation pieces, all we managed to do with them was flood the area with notes that only served to render most local dealer's stocks of them utterly worthless. So even after 70 years, these notes still have a negative effect.

Hirohito finally could see the writing on the wall. The best-laid plans were all array and the gamble had failed. He ordered his government to surrender at whatever cost, except that he was to stay on as Emperor. The Americans to their credit accepted this deal and saved a lot of lives. Hirohito saved his own skin by reinventing himself as the unwilling and duped pacifist who was seriously misled by a rogue military government. This little PR coup was actually engineered by General MacArthur's staff and then foisted on the pleasantly surprised Emperor. He not-so-willingly gave up his divinity, after it was impressed upon him that the Americans would accept nothing less or start shooting again. Why MacArthur looked the other way and didn't have Hirohito arrested for war crimes is still a matter of conjecture and debate. He even posed for a photo with the short, somewhat humbled, seriously misunderstood but normal everyday kind of Emperor, who was overly dressed for the occasion and looked more like a doorman or a concierge from an upscale hotel than the leader of a major power. Tojo, on the other hand, wound up getting himself hanged after a bungled suicide attempt and a war-crimes trial. Someone had to pay the piper, and it seems that a vote was taken and Tojo lost. He went to his reward willingly and glad that he had ultimately done his duty. The Emperor, who had approved all of Tojo's plans, walked away scot-free and was eventually hailed as a learned elder statesman upon his death in 1989. I'm sure a number of veterans from his prisoner of war camps would have other opinions, but they wouldn't be suitable to print here.

By the end of 1944, most of Japan was pretty much leveled. The highest man-made structure in Tokyo probably was a fire hydrant. Air raids had taken their toll. Approximately 100,000 people had been killed in raids that cumulated with possibly the most destructive single raid in human history on March 9th 1945⁷. The Americans had dumped an incredible amount of ordinance on Japan; double what they dumped on Germany. Looking at Japanese circulating currency, one can see this decline. At the start of the war, designs were simplified, and because of strategic considerations the coinage was made from aluminum. By the middle of the war, the designs were simplified further, and the metal content was changed to a weird and pliable

zinc-tin mixture that feels like lead. These coins circulated to extinction. The next issue was made from baked clay and is reddish-brown primarily because there were no metal-working industries left. The economy had more or less ground to a halt⁸. These were not issued and are very rare today. The wartime issues are fairly common and pretty ugly. By this time, the need for small change was beginning to diminish, as inflation took over and devalued the currency to almost nothing. After the war, the huge zaibatsus that had controlled the government and the economy were broken up, bankrupted and their leaders arrested and jailed; for the time being. They would re-emerge in the 7 "Operation Meetinghouse", consisted of 334 B-29 aircraft which dropped 1700 tons of bombs on the centre of Tokyo. This raid was even more destructive than either of the atomic bomb raids in August.

8 This is still controversial; Once the "Home Islands" would have been invaded, no one was quite sure whether or not the Japanese would surrender once their supplies ran out, which was the prime motivator for the "bomb" in August. Chances are, like the Germans in May of 1945 found out, without supplies there wouldn't be much point to continuing and there is a good chance that the Japanese probably would have surrendered. In fact, the government had considered it as early as 1943 but for Yalta and the Potsdam Declaration which insisted on "total unconditional surrender". This the Japanese interpreted to mean the abdication of the Emperor and the abolishment of the monarchy, which was completely unthinkable.



Emperor Hirohito and General MacArthur, at their first meeting, at the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo, 27 September, 1945
Source United States Army photograph U.S. Army photographer Lt. Gaetano Faillace

late 1950s under a different banner but were essentially the same thing. The pre-war Yen would struggle along and survive until the post-war currency reform of 1948 which stopped the free-fall and pegged the Yen against the US Dollar. Japan would again reinvent and rebuild itself in an incredibly short time.

There was one important lesson that the Japanese (like the Germans) did take from the Second World War; and that was that it's easier to buy something than it is to forcibly take it over and hold it. This became their mantra for the second half of the 20th century.

In 1974 a Japanese soldier by the name of 2nd Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda was discovered in the Philippines. He had been sent to the Philippines in 1944 and ordered to remain at his post until relieved. Needless to say,

the relief never came, so Onoda and 3 companions hung around in the jungle for the next 29 years. Onoda was the last survivor, the others having either died of old age or were killed in firefights. He refused to come out and would only accept a direct order from his commanding officer. This man was duly located in Japan and hastily flown to the Philippines, where Onoda finally surrendered his weapon. When he was being flown back to Japan, while the plane was on final approach over Tokyo, he stared awestruck at the skyline and lights and asked, "Who did you say lost the war?"

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A Coin of LUCIUS CORNELIUS SULLA

By Terence Cheesman

In the second century B.C., the Roman state literally exploded and became the dominate power of the Mediterranean Sea. Within a short 20 year period, the Roman Republic swept away virtually all the kingdoms which grew to dominate the region after the death of Alexander the Great who died in 323 B.C. However, the ease by which Roman armies crushed their opponents was not matched by Rome's ability to rule these new lands wisely, and the stresses created by all this new found power and wealth began to fracture the Roman state as well. As a result, Rome began what seems to a never ending series of civil and foreign wars which started in 91 B.C. and did not end until 30 B.C.



New Style tetradrachm of Athens, minted circa 89 B.C. Magistrates Quintus and Kleas... Symbol, Roma being crowned by Nike. It would seem that the government of Athens was very pro Roman. Some of these tetradrachms were later minted with the symbol of Rome effaced from the die.

Sulla was an early and prominent participant in these struggles, and in fact, his enmity with the other great commander of the day, Marius, was one of the reasons for the collapse of the traditional Roman Republican form of government. Actually, this is where the story of this coin begins. In 88 B.C., Mithridates VI King of Pontus, who tapped local hatred of the Romans and their taxes, orchestrated the murder of some 80,000 Romans and their allies and swept through the Roman Province of Asia. Then, he carried the war into Greece. He ordered his general Archelaus to take Athens which he managed to do. Archelaus then established a prominent Athenian citizen, Aristion,

as tyrant of Athens. Afterward, he moved north to fight the Roman army where he met with mixed success. During this period, the Athenians minted coins honouring their alliance with Mithridates. Meanwhile at Rome, while all of this was going on, the Roman senate had awarded Sulla the command of the army moving against Mithridates. Before Sulla could leave, politicians loyal to Marius reversed the Senatorial decree, giving Sulla the command of the army and transferred the command to Marius. Sulla was not amused and neither was his army. War and military service was one of the few ways that the poor could gain wealth and status in Roman society, and the



New Style tetradrachm of Athens, minted circa 88 B.C. Magistrates King Mithridates and Ariston. There is no evidence that Mithridates was ever at Athens, but he may have sent silver so that these coins could be minted. Two crescents surrounding a star, the symbol of the Pontic Kingdom, complete the design

likelihood that other men would be going to Greece to rape, plunder, and pillage, instead of them, enraged the rank and file. Sulla then took his best legions and marched on Rome. This was unprecedented.

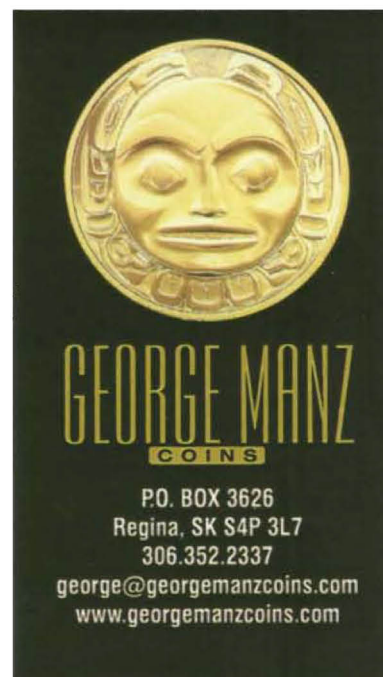
In our society, we are used to seeing military men in uniform within the city limits. It was not so in Rome. The army would form up outside the city limits and would then go to war. On returning, they would have to remove their military gear including their tunics and be ritually cleansed before re entering the city. The only exception was a Triumph, when the army was allowed through the city in celebration of a great victory. So Sulla's march on Rome was not only political but sacrilegious as well. Sulla drove out Marius and his followers and then thinking all was back to normal, set off to Greece. He seems to have marched into central Greece, where he quickly re established Roman control. Then, he set off towards Athens. Athens at this time was well fortified, and the harbour of Piraeus was now under the control of Archelaus whose powerful fleet gave him

command of the sea. The city and harbour were joined by the famous Long Walls which were the weak link in the defence. Sulla very quickly took the Long Walls and separated the harbour from the city. He first attacked Piraeus, knowing that starvation would do his work for him in Athens.

Archelaus proved to be a gifted commander and stymied all of Sulla's efforts to take Piraeus, and Sulla would get worse news from Rome. Marius returned to Rome with a vengeance and killed as many of Sulla's supporters as he could find. Sulla could expect no assistance from Rome of any kind. It was probably at this point that he abandoned the siege of Piraeus and concentrated on the siege of Athens. The citizens were at this point starving, and there were rumours of cannibalism. Sulla launched a successful attack, and he was in no mood to be merciful. There was a great slaughter, as the city was put to the sword. Only the Acropolis managed to withstand this attack, and it too fell on 1 March 86 B.C. Sulla then turned his attention to Piraeus, and it fell shortly afterward, as Archelaus

abandoned the city. Sulla then continued to find the enemy and try to destroy them. By 86 B.C., he had driven them from Greece, and in the following year, his forces advanced into Asia Minor. Mithridates, getting the worst from this onslaught, decided to sue for peace.

Sulla was agreeable. Though unchallenged on the battlefield, he was still essentially an outlaw in Rome. One army had been



sent out against him, and he had managed to persuade them to join him, but the situation was unacceptable. In 84 B.C., Sulla concluded a peace with Mithridates and then made preparations to again march on Rome. In 83 B.C., Sulla again marched on Rome, and after two years of bloody fighting, won the battle of the Colline Gate in November 82 B.C. In early 81 B.C., he became dictator of Rome.

It was in this context that the coin I am writing about was minted. At first glance, the coin looks like a standard Athenian tetradrachm of the "New Style" type. On the obverse, one finds the bust of Athena Parthenos. She wears a triple crested Attic helmet. Above the visor, the helmet is adorned with the foreparts of four horses. A Pegasus, the famous winged horse of Greek mythology, can be seen above the ear piece which is raised. The rest of the ornamentation of this helmet is completed by three tendril-like objects and a line of dots which suggest rivets. This image is usually considered to be a very small copy of the image of Athena within the Parthenon. The reverse consists of the image of an owl, wings folded, standing on an amphora which lies on its side. Around the whole is an olive wreath. Unlike the normal coinage of Athens, the city name is not placed on the coins, and the names of the three or more magistrates, who would normally supervise the production of coins, have been replaced by two monograms.

From sometime in 87 B.C. to 84 B.C., which marked the peace with Mithridates, Sulla was isolated. The fall of Athens in 86 B.C. would provide him with not only with a mint, but also the plunder to mint coins with. He seems to have resisted the temptation of minting denarii and instead chose to mint near copies of Athenian tetradrachms. The reasons for this are both economic and political. The region in which he was conducting military operations was used to using the tetradrachms from Athens, and the coinage should therefore be readily acceptable. One has to remember that legally, Sulla was really at best

a rebel fighting against the legal government in Rome and at worst a bandit chief. Politically, the message conveyed by the minting of these coins was stark. Sulla came to Athens, took it and destroyed it. It was his city and stood as a warning to anyone who contemplated resistance to him and his army. In this way, while in most major features the coinage is identical to the Athenian prototypes, it is in the details that the coinage is distinctly Sullan. As noted above, the city ethnic has been removed as has been the names of the civic magistrates. In their place, sit two monograms, MAP and MTA.



New Style tetradrachm of Athens, minted by Sulla. There are three main varieties of this coinage, this one being the second and likely most common type minted. The first variety has the letter A on the Amphora upon which the owl sits. The third has two military standards which likely represent Sulla's victories at Chaeronea and Orchomeneus. Chaeronea was famous for having a number of battles on its site and was known as the dancing field of Ares the god of war.



Historically, this coinage has been ascribed to Lucius Lucullus, an officer under the command of Sulla who was put in charge of the financial needs of the army. Apparently, the coins he minted coincided so well that they became a byword for quality. There is little to link these coins to him, though the MAP monogram could stand for the first three letters of his brother's name Marcus. At present, this attribution is solid, but the activities of Roman moneyers in the east is very difficult to unravel.

Here are a few notes about the city and the personalities involved. Athens very slowly recovered from the sack and minted very few tetradrachms afterwards, this coinage ending around the time of Julius Caesar.

The city became something of a university town. Ariston was killed within days of the city falling. Mithridates resumed the war with Rome and eventually was hunted down and killed. Archelaus changed sides and later fought on the side of the Romans. Lucius Lucullus continued with the fight with Mithridates. Some of his campaigns are considered to be military masterpieces, but the war dragged on, and Lucius was replaced by Pompey. Sulla returned to Rome, and as noted above, became dictator of Rome. On his deathbed, he summoned an individual that owed him money, but perhaps knowing that the old man was near death, refused to pay. Sulla had the man strangled, but with all of the excitement, collapsed and died the next day, no doubt from happiness.



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Ancient Kyme - Where Alexander Met an Amazon

By Wayne Hansen



The coinage of Alexander the Great's former Macedonian empire underwent significant change between the time that Alexander died in 323 BC and the time that Rome expanded eastward in the mid 2nd century BC. Some of the successor Macedonian rulers who had divvied up the former empire eventually devised their own coinages using their own names and even their own portraits (a practice that became standard in Seleukid and Ptolemaic domains). However, at other less certain times, the new rulers and the minting cities within Macedon and Alexander's former eastern territories reverted to striking posthumous versions of Alexander's earlier imperial coinage - coins with the Herakles head obverse and seated Zeus reverse. Regal or civic authorities would issue these posthumous coins for various reasons: a) when a new successor king didn't know if it was proper to produce his own coinage, b) when a city or territory wasn't sure who was in charge or c) when a city wanted to exercise a limited degree of autonomy without antagonizing a regional power. Somewhat later, by the early 2nd century BC, when the ruling powers became further weakened and the impact of the original Macedonian conquest had faded, local civic interests re-emerged to dominate the political landscape, such that various cities essentially became independent. Many of these newly energized mint cities promoted their autonomy by symbolically banishing the posthumous Herakles and introducing radically different and more modern civic coinages.

The Greek city of Kyme, located along the western coast of Asia Minor (current Turkey - see Figure 1), found itself in such a political limbo between 240 BC and 150 BC. After Alexander died in 323 BC, there had been firm but tumultuous control of the area while various Macedonian successor kings had

vied to dominate portions of the earlier kingdom. In the late third century, however, Kyme ended up on the fringe of political affairs and proceeded first to issue a short series of bold, posthumous Alexander-type tetradrachms. A few decades later, in the mid-second century, it demonstrated its



Figure 1 - Location of Kyme

Kyme is located along the western shore of Asia Minor, one of a number of Greek colonies founded in the 10th to 7th centuries BC. Despite being a coastal city, its main economic endeavor was agriculture, though its port also supported naval fleets at various times of conflict. The main political and military center in the area was at Sardis in Lydia, which was also the birthplace of ancient coinage in the mid-7th century. Pergamon also played a dominant role in Kyme's affairs until it obtained a degree of independence in the late-3rd century BC.

greater freedom by minting a spectacular series of its own large, autonomous civic coins as part of a group of like-minded cities. In this article, I provide examples of both of these distinctive Kyme issues to show how drastically coinage could change within a short period, and to show how artistic standards could be maintained in an uncertain time. In the process of switching from one major coin series to the other, Kyme managed to bring together two iconic obverse coin images – Alexander's mythical, heroic Herakles badge in the first series and the equally mythical, heroic Queen of the Amazons in the second series. Was

there romance in the air? We don't know, but the Greeks would certainly have appreciated the juxtaposition of male and female heroes, given that gods and heroes at that time were endowed with very human sensibilities.

Early History of Kyme

Before discussing these two particular coinages of Kyme, I should mention that Kyme was not a major force in archaic or classical times. It was located in the district of Aeolis, which was likely first settled by migrants from Euboia (an island on the east side of mainland Greece) in the late

Bronze Age, around 1,000 BC. At that time, the refined Mycenaean civilization of southern Greece had been displaced by an influx of rough Dorians who had moved in from the north. The town of Kyme itself was likely founded around 700-600 BC and was soon dominated by the powerful and rich Kingdom of Lydia immediately to the east (Kings Alyattes and Kroisos of Lydia initiated the earliest known electrum and gold coinages from Sardis). Within Aeolis, however, Kyme was the largest of twelve cities and served as a regional centre for surrounding towns. Its good harbor provided a strategic advantage to warring navies during later confrontations between Greece and Persia, but it was much more of an agricultural enterprise than a maritime power.

Lydia's dominance of Aeolis ended, when Cyrus the Great of Persia advanced from the east in 542 BC and captured western Asia Minor, including the Greek cities along the coast. Though originally democratic, Kyme was subject to a short-lived tyranny during the late 6th century that was indebted to the Persians. The tyranny was abandoned at the time of the Ionian Revolt of 505 BC, when Kyme supported the Greek side. That lasted until Xerxes recaptured the city, returning it to the Persian fold. With the assistance of Kyme, Persia had previously attacked northern Greece and Macedon in 513 (before the Revolt), and then it attacked southern Greece in 480 BC. Persia even managed to sack Athens in that campaign, but it was defeated in naval battles and was left in a much weaker condition when it retreated. Athens also subsequently became weakened by internal Greek wars in Greece and Sicily, which ultimately led to the rise of Macedon under Philip II and the subsequent conquest of Greater Persia by Alexander the Great in 334-333 BC. After the conquest, King Alexander would have appointed a governor to administer Aeolis, and therefore the city of Kyme (Alexander had assumed the title 'King of Asia' in his eastern territories).

Early Coinage of Kyme

Being on the fringe of political and economic affairs, Kyme was not a major coin producer. It was not until the 2nd century BC that it had a significant coin issue, when it minted the Amazon tetradrachms (see section below).

Surprisingly, Kyme seems to have issued two scarce but interesting early coins in the mid-to-late 6th century. They are a small, fractional electrum stater and a regular size silver stater (see Figures '2a' and '2b'). There are no definitive identity marks on the coins, aside from a horse forepart, but the attribution to Kyme seems secure enough.

The electrum piece would have been issued just as King Kroisos began producing a separate gold and silver coinage in nearby Sardis (electrum was used in Sardis previously and in other Asia Minor mints for more than 150 years after). Kyme's silver stater followed shortly after its electrum coin and shows the type of double reverse punch arrangement that was typical for many early electrum and gold issues in Greek Asia Minor cities (though the floral punch design is unusual).

Very little coinage was minted in Kyme between 500 and 350 BC, likely because it had a small economy and/or used other coins produced by Lydia and later by Persia. What was minted consisted of tiny hemiobols, approximately 8 mm in diameter, with either the familiar horse forepart or eagle head as the obverse device and a reverse punch (initially a rough punch, then a swastika pattern) - (see Figures '2f' and '2g'). The eagle head hemiobol is reasonably available to collectors today. The rest of Kyme's early coinage is attributed to the 350-250 BC period, and consists mostly of drachms, hemidrachms and obols in silver, and then a few small bronze denominations. The usual designs on these, now two-sided coins, included the eagle, horse forepart and the one-handed cup (the latter becoming the standard civic symbol on later civic tetradrachm issues). During the 350-250 BC period, Kyme would perhaps also have used the higher denomination gold darics and silver sigloi minted by Persia in Sardis, later replaced by Alexander's imperial gold staters and silver drachms and tetradrachms, after the Macedonian conquest in 334. I also noticed in my review that Kyme produced a small, rare Persian satrap portrait coin, issued by Spithridates, that fits into the early part of the 350-250 BC Kyme grouping (Figure 2k). It is a small bronze that definitely seems to have been a 'one-off', special issue for this well-known satrap of Lydia and Ionia, who was also one of the commanders who fought a losing battle against Alexander at Granicus in 334. A good assortment of early Kyme coin examples, from commercial websites, is contained in Figure 2.

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Figure 2 - Early Kyme Silver and Bronze (520-250 BC)

This Figure illustrates the range of issues produced by Kyme from its earliest period until its quasi independence in the late 3rd century BC. The photos are more in order of denomination than date. The earliest coins (and the rarest) have reverse punches, with '2a' and '2b' minted in 550-520 BC, and '2f' minted in 500-470 BC. The more common eagle head hemiobol, '2g', was minted around 450-400 BC; while the rest of the coins are grouped in the 350-250 BC period. The horse may allude to Kyme's heavy reliance on agriculture. The eagle is the usual tribute to a patron deity, Zeus.

Photos courtesy of Gorney & Mosch (5a,e,k), Nomos (5b), Rauch (5c,h), CNG (5d,g,i) and Helios (5f) and Gitbud Naumann (5j).

Later History of Kyme

As noted, soon after Alexander died in 323 BC, his long-time companions divided his spear-won, eastern kingdom into separate regions that they could rule independently. Antipater had previously

been appointed as regent of Macedon by Alexander, so the companions parceled out the rest of the Empire: Lysimachos got Thrace, Ptolemy got Egypt, the Middle East went to Seleukos, and western Asia Minor, including Kyme, went to Antigonos Monophthalmos (the One-Eyed). Antigonos

had been a very capable military commander under Alexander and had defeated the Persians in several battles. After assuming rule in Asia Minor, and after a further series of alliances, retrenchments and defeats from 315 to 311 BC, Antigonos secured a much wider territory for himself, extending far into the Middle East. After more victories in Cyprus, with assistance from his son Demetrios Poliorketes, he declared himself King in 306. He was really on a quest to control the whole of Alexander's former Empire, but he quickly managed to unite the four other main companions against him (these were Ptolemy, Seleukos, Lysimachos and Kassander, who by this time, had replaced Antipater in Macedon). In the end, Lysimachos and Seleukos defeated Antigonos at Ipsos in 301, where he died in battle at the age of 81 years (his first military loss).

Lysimachos then took over western Asia Minor, including Kyme, where he was able to produce an extensive series of artistic tetradrachms showing a deified, horned portrait of Alexander (primarily minted at Pergamon). Twenty years later, in 281, Seleukos marched against Lysimachos and killed him in battle, but then Seleukos was assassinated in the same year. Seleukos was succeeded by his son, Antiochos I, who then controlled all of Asia Minor as well as the vast eastern Seleukid realm. Twenty years after that, around 262-261 BC, Antiochos I was attempting to subdue a rebellion against his Seleukid rule at Pergamon, when he engaged the Pergamene ruler, Eumenes I, in battle at Sardis. Eumenes, the adopted son of Philetairos (founder of Pergamon's Attilid dynasty), defeated Antiochos with the help of Egyptian mercenaries and then declared the independence of Pergamon. Eumenes began expanding Pergamon's small territory, extending it within a few years as far

as nearby Kyme. Meanwhile, Antiochos II had succeeded Antiochos I, but the Seleukid Empire continued to be beset by rebellions within its regions. In the brief period between the accession of Antiochos II and the expansion of Pergamon, Kyme struck a small issue of Antiochos II tetradrachms, while it was still controlled by Seleukid authorities (Figure 3).

Pergamon continued its expansion northwards into adjacent territories over the next few decades, such that it occupied most of northwestern Asia Minor by 200 BC. However, Kyme was still on the southern fringe of the Pergamene Kingdom, and by 240 BC it had managed to somehow attain a significant level of freedom. With this freedom, it struck limited numbers of large-denomination, posthumous Alexander tetradrachms, in addition to its usual small denomination coins (see discussion in section below). The situation was otherwise reasonably stable for both Pergamon rule and the somewhat autonomous Kyme until about 210 BC, since most large conflicts in the late 3rd century BC took place outside the mainland boundaries of Pergamon and the Seleukid Empire, in the Aegean. In 210, however, both the island of Rhodes and King Attalos of Pergamon asked Rome for help to counter advances of the new Seleukid ruler, Antiochos III (Rome had already become involved in Macedon in 214 BC, when the Macedonian King, Philip V, allied himself with Carthage in the Second Punic War). Antiochos III then invaded Greece, and was defeated by Roman forces in 191 BC, following a long series of maneuvers and skirmishes. Technically, Rome could have claimed Asia Minor at that point, but instead, it ceded control to the Attilids of Pergamon, who held it until it bequeathed its territory back to Rome in 133 BC. The rest, as they say, is history.



Figure 3 - Seleukid Tetradrachms of Kyme (Antiochos II - circa 260 BC)

These two, rare Seleukid tetradrachms were reportedly minted in Kyme during the reign of Antiochos II (261-246 BC). The first is Attic weight at 17.10 g, and the second is lighter at 16.34 g. These would have been issued early in his reign, before the influence of the newly independent Pergamon had spread very far. The first coin shows an early-style portrait of Antiochos I, with a one-handed cup and monograms on the reverse. The second does not show the Kyme cup symbol, but one of the monograms matches one on the first coin (to confirm the linkage, I have also seen a very similar, later-style coin with a cup symbol cut into the left side of the reverse).

Photos courtesy of Gorney & Mosch.

Alexander Tetradrachm Issues of Kyme (240-200 BC)

This discussion of Kyme's historical background indicates that the city was more or less dominated, in the political/military sense, by powerful local rulers or invading empires for most of its development. As mentioned above, there was little need for its own coinage, because the Persians, Macedonians and Attalids produced large quantities of coins for use in the territories they controlled – much of it minted in Sardis, the capital of the former Lydian Kingdom and the birthplace of coinage itself.

It was not until the mid-late 3rd century BC that this political/military domination slackened, based on the fact that Kyme began to mint its own tetradrachms. They were struck in the same pattern as many other Asia Minor cities at the time, that is, in the posthumous Alexander mode. The obverses and reverses depicted a more modern, more loosely flowing version of Alexander's Herakles and seated Zeus, a style now called Hellenistic. The reverse maintained the same revered legend of Alexander's lifetime coinage: 'ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ' (meaning simply "of Alexander"). One feature distinguished the different posthumous, Alexandrine civic issues that were minted in the far-flung west and southwestern parts of Asia Minor, from cities such as Temnos, Mytilene, Magnesia, Perge, Phaselis and Aspendos – the reverses of these similar coins incorporated a unique mint symbol for each city. Kyme's symbol was a small, one-handled cup, sometimes called an 'oinochoe', which was located in the left field of the new tetradrachm reverse. The same cup symbol was used for the subsequent civic tetradrachm issues of Kyme (see section following), but the later issue also included the actual city name.

Figure 4 shows a photo of a recently acquired, posthumous Alexander tetradrachm of Kyme, which I obtained from a V-Coins dealer in Norway. It is an especially early example of the type. None of the civic Alexander tetradrachms from this period are common, and this coin, with this particular obverse die, is very rare, if not unique. Its Herakles portrait conveys his immense strength and determination by incorporating an exceptional amount of facial modeling, reinforced by a piercing eye and furrowed brow. Equally impressive is the extraordinarily detailed lion scalp headdress, which expertly defines the head and mane of the lion as if it was alive. Another very unusual feature of the Herakles head is the geometric, serrated inner edge of the lion's mouth, which is not found in the later versions of this type. The standard,

Alexander seated Zeus reverse image on the coin appears to be relatively small in relation to the obverse, but it includes all the usual iconography, plus Kyme's one-handled cup civic symbol. With only a bit of a stretch, the monogram on the reverse can be interpreted as 'KYME', which would be a remarkable departure from the normal use of monograms. The only problems with the coin are that the rear part of the lion mane is off the flan (the obverse image of the coin was meant to be large) and the chin of Herakles is strangely flattened – probably by an inwardly glancing blow rather than through under-strike. Otherwise, the coin has an entirely captivating, sculptural look.

Figure 5 shows examples of the few other known Alexandrine tetradrachms from Kyme, which tend to be of a smoother, simpler style – similar to comparable issues produced in other Greek Asia Minor cities.

Herakles as Hero

Herakles was the chosen mythical-hero type used on all of Alexander the Great's tetradrachm coinage, whether lifetime or posthumous, or in all areas of his realm. He knew that the tetradrachm would be his major coin issue, used for both military payments and other purposes, and that the attributes of Herakles would forever be

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associated with him in the minds of the people. You didn't need to be too literate to appreciate the concept – head of Herakles on one side and Zeus with the name 'Alexander' on the other. Herakles was very important to the Greeks, though it wouldn't have been a disappointment to Alexander if the people interpreted the coinage to mean that Alexander was the reincarnation of Herakles.

Herakles was both a hero and a god, the son of Zeus and Alcmene (Zeus had disguised himself as her husband to pull that one off). Herakles was the greatest Greek hero – masculine, full of strength, courage, ingenuity and sexual prowess. But he was also playful and passionate. He 'conquered dangerous, archaic forces to make the world safe for mankind'. He would do great deeds for his friends, but he was a terrible enemy and could take great vengeance on those who abused him. The symbols that always identify Herakles are therefore the club and the lion skin of the slain Nemean Lion.

The mythology of Herakles is complex. As a child, he killed his music tutor and was banished to tend cattle, whereupon two nymphs, Pleasure and

Virtue, asked him whether he wanted a 'pleasant life' or a 'severe and glorious life'. He chose 'severe and glorious' (most coin collectors would likely do the same, but in practice they end up with 'austere and notorious' instead). Herakles later killed his own children in a fit of madness induced by his arch-rival Hera and as penance, was instructed by the Oracle of Delphi to do any work required for King Eurystheus. The King gave him ten labors to perform in order to erase his bad deed and receive immortality (such as slaying the Nemean Lion, slaying a Hydra, plus capturing the Golden Hind of Artemis, the Eurymanthian Boar and the Cretan Bull, etc). Herakles performed the labors, but the King was not satisfied and gave him two more, which he completed. He then joined the Argonauts to search for the Golden Fleece, conquer Troy and help the gods fight the Gigantes. He had many, many other extraordinary adventures that included the killing of other monsters and giants, the founding of cities, challenging Death, etc. He married four times and had other passionate encounters – one occurred when he stayed at the palace of Thespieae. The King of Thespieae said that if Herakles killed the Lion of Cithaeron, he could make love to all fifty of his daughters, in one night.



Figure 4 – Featured Kyme Alexander Tetradrachm (240-225 BC)

Aeolis, Kyme Tetradrachm – Posthumous Alexander type (17.00 g, 30.6 x 27.4 mm, 12h). Mint: Kyme. Issued 240-225 BC, Attic weight standard. Obv: Head of Herakles right, wearing lion skin headdress with serrated mouth lobes. Rev: ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ; Zeus seated on throne left, holding eagle and scepter or spear, one-handed cup and monogram in left field. Ex: Freeman & Sear; Gault Coins, January 2013. (Collection of the author and photo by the author).

Here is a striking, well-modeled portrait of Herakles, worthy of the divine hero who vanquished so many foes and completed so many labors. This coin may be a unique survivor of this particular obverse die, and it is certainly one of the earliest of Kyme's posthumous Alexandrine tetradrachms. The reverse monogram may be interpreted to spell the name of the issuing city, an unusual departure from the norm, if correct.



Figure 5 – Other Styles of Alexander Kyme Tetradrachms (225-200 BC)

Alexander Kyme tetradrachms are quite rare, only showing up on the commercial market recently. Here are four examples in a later style than the featured coin (Figure 4), marked by a less dramatic, almost cursory molding of both the lion skin headdress and the facial features of Herakles. The style of the Herakles was also considerably softened, becoming almost pretty in the case of '5c'. Each of the coins displays the one-handed cup symbol and monogram, or symbol and horse forepart in the case of '5d'. However, '5d' also has the full name of a magistrate in the exergue, marking it as a late issue.

I do not have the physical parameters for all of these coins, but from what information I have, it is clear that the first two coins are smaller in diameter and heavier in weight (approximately 29 mm and 17.0 g), while the second two are larger in diameter and lighter (approximately 35 mm and 16.5 g). This fits the sequential pattern for these types of posthumous tetradrachms. While '5a' retains some element of distinctiveness in the lion headdress (ruffled mane and lion mouth lobes around the Herakles ear), the style of the other three coins had quickly evolved to be almost identical to the slightly later issues of various other Greek coastal cities in Asia Minor – those that possessed a more stylized mane and plain/absent mouth lobes. The treatment of the reverse Zeus on all such posthumous Alexander coins is almost always unremarkable.

Photos courtesy of CNG (5a-c) and Dionysios V-Coins (5d).

Herakles seized the chance, and all the daughters became pregnant with sons (don't laugh, many kings of Sparta and Macedon traced their lineage to that episode, so it must have been true). Of course, Herakles also had numerous male lovers. He certainly had boundless energy.

Herakles eventually died, in his mortal guise, after his last wife mistakenly gave him a shirt laced with the poisonous blood of a centaur that Herakles had killed years before, in order to make her more attractive to him (it's complicated). His immortal self then rose to join the gods at Olympus. Interestingly, the Greek historian, Herodotus, believed that Herakles had actually lived about 900 years before him (about 1300 BC).

Autonomous Kyme Civic Tetradrachm (after 165 BC)

Kyme is best known for its later, extensive issue of spread-flan tetradrachms in the mid-2nd century BC. The city adopted new types for both the obverse and reverse of these big coins, proclaiming itself fully independent from previously imposed regimes. However, its autonomy would be relatively short-lived, since the power of the Roman Empire would sweep through Asia Minor in the following century.

The new types for the Kyme tetradrachm included a large, right-facing female head on the obverse and a standing/prancing horse framed by a large laurel wreath on the reverse. In addition, a one-



Figure 6 – Amazons Fighting Greeks

*On a recent trip to the British Museum, I came across one of the friezes that surrounded the Tomb of Maussollos (see my article in *The Planchet*, Jan-Feb 2013). The frieze depicts battles between Greeks and Amazons, with some of the female warriors mounted and some on foot. They are shown in an animated, late classical style, with fine garments (as opposed to the less delicate, barbaric dress of the Scythians and Sarmatians). The Greek sculptors who created the frieze obviously treated the Amazons with great respect. (Photos by the author).*

handled cup was placed beneath the horse, and the name of the city, 'KYMAION' (of Kyme), was added in front of the horse. My featured example of this Amazon tetradrachm can be seen in Figure 7. Several independent cities in Asia Minor minted similar tetradrachm coins in mid-second century, using similar design guidelines and basic coin fabric. Although this could suggest that they had a loose economic confederation (which would obviously have allowed for easy interchange of money and products), the major reason is probably not so straightforward. Not all spread-flan coin issuing cities in Asia Minor commenced the new coinage at the same time, so it is difficult to argue that they formed an economic compact.

In fact, the spread-flan, wreathed reverse design was likely first devised in Athens, on the Greek mainland, around 165 BC, spawning a long series of subsequent Athenian 'new-style' tetradrachm issues over the following century (Figure 8 shows my example of a scarce, early Athenian new-style tetradrachm from 152 BC or earlier). Myrina was probably the first of the Asia Minor colonies to adopt the new fashion right after the Athenian issue. I have included a photo of one of the earliest Myrina spread-flan coins, ironically minted around 165 BC (see Figure 9, and note the spare, early style). The Kyme Amazon tetradrachms represented in Figure 7 were likely started later, around 152 BC, while other mints joined the action as needed.

Because of the great similarity of the fabric and the wreathed reverse of the different civic tetradrachms, they are lumped into a category called 'stephanophoroi' (or wreath bearers). Besides Kyme, with its Amazon coin obverse, the main Asia Minor cities that produced stephanophoroi included Myrina (head of Apollo), Magnesia (head of Artemis), Herakleia (helmeted head of Athena) and Smyrna (turreted head of Tyche). Choice of the obverse type depended of course on the local patron deity or the most important civic symbol.

The female head on the Kyme tetradrachm obverse is thought to represent the Amazon queen 'Kyme' (also spelled Cyme), since the lack of accoutrements and simple presentation suggests that we are not looking at a goddess. The Amazon head on the obverse is bound with a 'tainia', which is a simple ribbon or band (part of a costume), rather than a royal or sacred 'diadem' (another, usually more elaborate type of ribbon designating a king or god). The Amazons are considered to be mythical warrior heroes, rather than gods. The Amazon queen motif relates to a founding myth for the city – see Amazon section below.

The Mythical Amazons

The Amazons are fascinating, but I will only be able to mention a few of the more interesting aspects of their history. There are of course several ancient versions of the story, so I will



Figure 7 – Featured Kyme Amazon Tetradrachm

Aeolis, Kyme Tetradrachm – Civic Amazon type (16.86 g, 33.6 x 31.1 mm, 12h)¹. Mint: Kyme. Issued after 165 BC (possibly 152 BC), reduced Attic weight standard. Obv: Head of Amazon queen right, hair bound by tainia. Rev: KYMAION; Bridled horse standing right, left front leg raised, one-handled cup below belly; ΣΕΥΘΗΣ in exergue; all within a laurel wreath. Ex: CNG Auction 53, March 2000. (Collection of the author and photo by the author).

As with the featured Alexander Herakles portrait coin (Figure 4), the head of this Amazon queen is powerful and stylish. Her facial features are well modeled and pleasantly generous, providing a classically beautiful appearance. On the other hand, her restrained hair and firm expression give her a determined and purposeful quality, which is fitting for a heroic figure. The fine die-break across the forehead and eye adds credence to her warrior heritage. This coin is a great example of the type, only issued by Kyme, and it is struck from one of the finest Amazon portrait dies. It is an appropriate companion to the earlier Herakles Alexander coin.

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stick with generalities. The Amazons were seen in Greek myth as a nation of all-female warriors originally based in Sarmatia and Scythia (current Ukraine and southern Russia), who worshipped Ares, the god of war. They had several notable queens, who participated in many wars and battles, including the Trojan War, and they were often doing battle with Greek warriors (frequently depicted in Greek art in general and temple reliefs in particular). Other accounts indicate that they moved at some point to Pontos in northern Turkey, beside the Black Sea, subsequently founding many towns and cities, including Sinope, Smyrna and Ephesos, as well as Kyme. They otherwise appear in many Greek legends and the *Iliad*. Herodotus, the famous Greek historian, referred to Amazons as 'Androktones' or 'killers of men', but in the *Iliad* the Amazons are merely called 'Antianeirai' or 'those who fight like men'.

The Amazons are famous as much for their appearance and customs as their actions. By most accounts, men could not reside in Amazon country nor have sexual encounters there. The Greeks obviously knew that myth-telling alone would not entirely explain how an all-female society could reproduce. A couple of explanations emerged. To prevent their race from dying out, one version

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Figure 8 – Athenian New-Style Tetradrachm

Athens, New-Style Tetradrachm – (16.74 g, 33.0 x 32.5mm, 12h). Mint: Athens. Issued 152-151 BC, reduced Attic weight standard. Obv: Head of Athena Parthenos in crested Corinthian helmet right, ornamented with Pegasos and vines. Rev: A-ΘΕ; Owl with head facing, standing right on overturned vase, production sequence letter on vase; two snakes in right field; monograms XM to right and AFN above snakes; all within a laurel wreath. Ex: Freeman & Sear, January 2004. (Collection of the author and photo by the author).

Athens began minting these spread-flan, wreathed, new-style tetradrachms about 165 BC, starting a new fashion which was adopted by Greek colonies on the south-west coast of Asia Minor. This is an early example of the Athens coin, minted in 152 BC, about the same year as the likely commencement of the new wreathed Amazon coinage in Kyme (see Figure 7). This example is also almost identical to the featured Kyme tetradrachm in size and weight.

noted that once a year the Amazons would visit a neighboring tribe, the Gargarians. Another version indicated that they would not kill all the men in battle but take some as slaves and have sex with them once or twice a year (I imagine that they saved all the Greek warriors that looked like the no-frills Spartan, Gerard Butler, in the movie '300', rather than the ones that looked like Brad Pitt in the movie 'Troy', or Colin Farrell in 'Alexander' – but I could be mistaken).

From these occasional liaisons, the girl babies were raised by their mothers and taught the intricacies of agriculture, hunting and the art of war. The boys, not so much. If the boy babies/youngsters were lucky, they were sent back to their fathers (assuming the fathers lived outside Amazon territory), or they were let loose in the wilderness to fend for themselves. Alternatively, the boy babies would be killed at birth.

Some descriptions of Amazons have noted that they ritually cut and cauterized the flesh around the right breast of the girl babies/youngsters so that the breast would not develop. This would

have allowed better use of the bow in warfare. However, this was apparently not a consideration in Greek mythology, since no Greek depictions of Amazons show an asymmetrical development of the female anatomy.

The Amazons were often depicted in Greek art as if they were Scythian or Sarmatian horsemen, carrying a bow, spear, axe and half-shield, although they were sometimes shown on foot. Their clothing was generally that of nomadic peoples of the Steppes, sometimes veering towards Persian, although in later periods, they could also be shown in more delicate clothing, more like goddesses (see Figure 7). In vase paintings they can also be identified by the fact they are wearing one earring.

Although the Amazons were basically myth, there is archeological evidence of women warrior-maidens in ancient Sarmatia/Scythia. About 20% of women burials in those areas have found the women dressed for battle like the men, and many of those included a bow. This tradition, as observed first or second hand by the Greeks, could



Figure 9 – Early Style Myrina Tetradrachm

Aeolis, Myrina Tetradrachm – (16.59 g, 35.6 x 34.1 mm, 12h). Mint: Myrina. Issued soon after 165 BC, reduced Attic weight standard. Obv: Laureate head of Apollo right with tight braids. Rev: MYPINAIQN ; Apollo Grynios standing right holding branch and phiale; omphalos and amphora at feet; monogram to left; all within a laurel wreath. Ex: CNG Shop, January 2004. (Collection of the author and photo by the author).

Myrina was probably the first of the Asia Minor mints to copy the fabric and design of the wreathed tetradrachm of Athens. Most Myrina tetradrachms were issued later than this coin and display an ornate, feminized portrait of Apollo, providing him with a very elaborate, three-ringlet hairstyle. Some of the facial features on the later coins resemble the features of the Kyme Amazon in Figure 7. However, this coin incorporates an early version of the Apollo portrait, whose restrained, finely executed style betrays the delicate, sensitive nature of the god. The flan on this coin is even larger than either the Athens or Kyme stephanophoroi in my collection, reminding us that 'imitation is the sincerest form of flattery'.

have contributed to the original myth. Herodotus had thought the Sarmatians of the northwestern part of the Black Sea were descended from the Amazons and that the Sarmatian wives followed the same ancestral customs, including wearing similar clothing as men, going hunting, and going to war. As well, Scythian men were often away long periods at war or hunting, so the women would also have needed to defend the family and stock.

Comparison of Featured Kyme Tetradrachms

OK, OK, Alexander's Herakles didn't actually meet the Amazon queen, except when the coins circulated in that ancient time. It is intriguing to consider that the two types would have mingled in a multitude of merchant purses, military treasure chests and temple offering plates so long ago. Some of the features of the sculptured Herakles head on Kyme's first civic Alexander issue (Figure 4) were found in one or two other scarce Asia Minor obverse dies (Magnesia is one), but the obverse style is still exceptional for its boldness,

muscularity and the fine depiction of the lion skin headdress. The style is noble, and the coin exudes a powerful charm. The obverse is also finely proportioned without being too ornate. In fact, the additional detail provided in the lion headdress only adds to the coin's nobility and appeal.

The Amazon head of the later Kyme civic tetradrachm issue (Figure 7) is one of the finest of the autonomous series, somehow managing to be both pretty and powerful at the same time. The fine die break across the Amazon's eye only adds to its intrigue. Similar to the earlier Herakles head, the Amazon conveys the same boldness and charm but with a feminine twist. The facial features and hair are presented in a simple, quite classical style, even though the classical era had long been replaced by the Hellenistic.

I think both of my coin examples are particularly artistic in execution and share a lot of the same attributes, even though they were struck several decades apart. The coins certainly make a nice pair in hand.

In Closing...

Each of these two, featured Kyme tetradrachms can be appreciated individually according to their own aesthetic merits. When seen together, however, the sum of both is more than equal to the two parts. They demonstrate that a consistent artistry and boldness of style existed at the Kyme mint, which reflected equally well on the Herakles of the Alexander issue and on the Amazon of the fully autonomous civic issue. Given that the Amazon was rarely depicted on Greek coins, or even on later coinages, the pretty Kyme Amazon tetradrachms are especially valued by collectors, and they demand a premium price.

It is fitting that the uber-masculine Herakles should meet the beautiful, warlike Amazon in these closely related mintages. Kyme may not have

been a lasting presence in ancient events, but the richness of its coinage reminds us that it prospered during this transitional period, from the late 3rd to mid 2nd centuries BC, and that it highly valued its myths and civic image.

'A myth is a way of making sense in a senseless world. Myths are narrative patterns that give significance to our existence.'

Rollo May

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