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NEW FACTS ON MODERN FAKE COINS OF THE CRUSADER STATES

Modern numismatic market is full of up-to-date fake coins that are sold to collectors and museums under the guise of authentic coins. Current technical capabilities considerably widen the possibilities of modern counterfeiters to develop their activities. We have already pointed out that in “recent years, due to the spread of sales through the Internet, the production of fake coins has become a kind of industry”¹. The problem of identifying and analyzing numismatic counterfeits is one of the most complex and insufficiently studied. Only some of the problems of modern fake coins of the Crusader States have been reflected in the historiography. For example, the fake golden besants² and the coins of the State of the Teutonic Order in Prussia³ were described. A certain attempt to analyze the fake coins of the Crusader States coins has been made by us⁴.

The problem of the research of modern counterfeits of numismatic sources lies in the plane of the two sciences: numismatics and criminal law. On the one hand, this is not counterfeiting since fake coins are not in circulation, but on the other hand it is counterfeiting of the pieces of collectibles. And here the elements of crime or their absence depend on the intent whether a modern counterfeiter or seller of numismatic objects intended to sell them under the guise of originals and to deceive collectors. We shall not consider this complex legal issue, but continue analyzing contemporary fake coins of the Crusader States that are sold on the international numismatic market under the guise of “medieval originals” and undoubtedly deceive some collectors and museum workers.

A year has passed since the publication of our previous article on the modern fake coins of the Crusaders State. The monitoring of numismatic Internet resources, which is very important for numismatic research⁵ has shown that criminals not only continue to sell under the guise of authentic coins modern counterfeits already described by us, but also produce new fake coins of other types of the Crusader coins. We shall consider the numismatic counterfeits according to the issuers of coins, fake coins of which have been identified.

County of Edessa.

The coins of this state formation are quite rare. Over the past year we discovered a few fake coins from Edessa County that were sold as originals. These are, in particular,

1. Orlyk V. Contemporary counterfeit coins of the Crusader states. Forum Numizmatyczne: Studia i Materiały. Białystok, 2018. # 2. P. 5-17.
2. The Bulletin of the International Bureau for the Suppression of Counterfeit Coins Vol 1 No. 2. 1976. 28pp.
3. Aleksander M. Kuźmin (2011) Prymitywne fałszerstwa brakteatów krzyżackich, Gdańskie Zeszyty Numizmatyczne nr 99/2011
4. Orlyk V. Contemporary counterfeit coins of the Crusader states. P. 5-17.
5. Орлик В.М. Інформаційний потенціал WEB-ресурсів у нумізматичних дослідженнях (на прикладі монет держав Хрестоносців). *Матеріали наукової конференції з міжнародною участю «Архівознавчі та джерелознавчі галузі знань: проблеми взаємодії на сучасному етапі»*. (14 березня 2013 р., м. Київ). Київ, 2013. С. 129-133.

the fake coins Richard of Salerno. Regent of 1104-1108 (for comparison, the original coin (Fig.1)⁶ and the fake coin (Fig.2)) and Baldwin II. Second reign, 1108-1118 (the original coin (Fig.3)⁷ and the fake coin (Fig.4)).



Fig.1



Fig.2 (ebay#401554192744)



Fig.3

6. CRUSADERS, Edessa. Richard of Salerno. Regent, 1104-1108. Æ Follis. URL: <https://www.acsearch.info/search.html?id=4320716> (date of request 04.12.2018).

7. CRUSADERS. Edessa. Baldwin II (Second reign, 1108-1118). Follis. URL: <https://www.bidder.ch/auctions/numismatiknaumann/browse?a=116&l=101700> (date of request 04.12.2018).



Fig.4 (ebay#163343049819)

The Principality of Antioch.

As for the coins of the Principality of Antioch, there is still dissemination of fake coins of the follies of Tancred, especially in our description⁸ of the 3rd type.



Fig.5 (ebay#362170200335)

In addition to this numismatic counterfeit, there appeared new fake coins of the rare coins of the Principality of Antioch. In particular, anonymous copper fractional denier of 1120-1140 (the original coin (Fig.6)⁹ and the fake coin (Fig.7-9)).



Fig.6

8. Orlyk V. Contemporary counterfeit coins of the Crusader states. P.9.

9. Private collection (Ukraine).



Fig.7¹⁰



Fig.8



Fig.9 (ebay#362169289704)

The fake coin of the copper fractional denier of Raymond of Poitiers of 1136-1149 (the original coin (Fig.10)¹¹ and the fake coin (Fig.11)).



Fig.10

10. Modern cast imitation of Antioch, Anonymous \AE Fractional Denier, 1120-1140. URL: <http://www.forumancientcoins.com/fakes/displayimage.php?album=33&pos=22> (date of request 04.12.2018).

11. CRUSADERS, Antioch. Raymond of Poitiers. 1136-1149. \AE Unit URL: <https://www.acsearch.info/search.html?id=495256> (date of request 07.12.2018).



Fig.11

The fake billon of the copper fractional denier of Bohemond III (the original coin (Fig.12)¹² and the fake coin (Fig.13)).



Fig.12

Fig.13 (ebay#153154686279)

The fake billon of the copper fractional anonymous denier (the original coin (Fig.14)¹³ and the fake coin (Fig.15)).



Fig.14

12. Crusaders, Antioch, Bohemund III (Minority, 1149-1163). Æ Fractional Denier URL: <https://www.acsearch.info/search.html?id=3395499> (date of request 07.12.2018).

13. Antioch, anonymous Æ fractional Denier. URL: <https://www.numisbids.com/n.php?p=lot&sid=1580&lot=2027> (date of request 07.12.2018).



Fig.15 (ebay#163398612831)

The Kingdom of Jerusalem.

Regarding modern fake coins of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, there recently appeared a primitive fake of the billon denier of John of Brienne (1210-12, 1212-25) (the original coin Fig.16¹⁴ and the fake coin Fig.17). There are also copper fake coins of billon denier pilgrim (the original coin Fig.18¹⁵ and the fake coin Fig.19-21).



Fig.16



Fig.17 (ebay#222734783835)

14. CRUSADER COINS. The Paul Edis Collection Coins Of The Crusades. Jerusalem, John of Brienne (1210-12, 1212-25), Billon Denier. URL: <https://www.sixbid.com/browse.html?auction=736&category=16305&lot=731005> (date of request 07.12.2018).

15. CRUSADERS, Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. Anonymous (?) Royal / Patriarchal. 12th century. BI Denier. URL: <https://www.acsearch.info/search.html?id=4834196> (date of request 07.12.2018).



Fig.18



Fig.19 (ebay#272908231584)

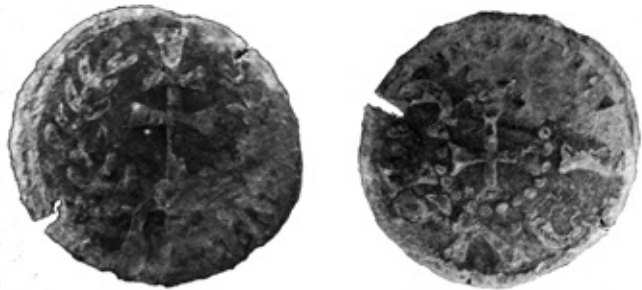


Fig.20 (ebay#273564796598)



Fig.21¹⁶

16. Modern bronze cast imitation of Jerusalem, Anonymous Billon Denier. URL: <http://www.forumancientcoins.com/fakes/displayimage.php?album=33&pos=23> (date of request 04.12.2018).

The County of Tripoli.

Among the fake coins of the County of Tripoli, the criminals continue to sell fake coins of silver gros of Bohemund VI (1251-1275) and Bohemond VII (1275-1287) made by molding from the original coin. However, there are also fake coins of other, cheaper and even more common coins. In particular, under the guise of the original coins, the fake coins of copper pougeoise of Raymond III (1152-1187) are sold (the original coins Fig. 22¹⁷, Fig. 24¹⁸ and their fake coins Fig.23, Fig. 25).



Fig.22



Fig.23 (ebay#163398641451)



Fig.24



17. Tripoli (Comté de), Raymond III, pougeoise, s.d. Tripoli. URL: <https://www.acsearch.info/search.html?id=3912814> (date of request 07.12.2018).

18. CRUSADER COINS. The Paul Edis Collection Coins Of The Crusades. Tripoli. Tripoli, Raymond III, Castle Copper. URL: <https://www.sixbid.com/browse.html?auction=736&category=16305&lot=731039> (date of request 04.12.2018).



Fig.25 (ebay#401441936634)

Lordship of Beirut

There is also a fake coin of the copper pougeoise of Raymond of Tripoli (1184-1186) on the numismatic market (the original coin Fig.26¹⁹ and the fake coin Fig.27.



Fig.26



Fig.27 (ebay#322942590318)

Cyprus

As for the modern counterfeits of the Crusaders of Cyprus, in addition to the popular fake coins of the gros of King of Cyprus Hugh IV (1324-1358) (1324-1358), which we described in the previous article, there appeared fake coins of Henry I on the numismatic

19. CRUSADER COINS. The Paul Edis Collection Coins Of The Crusades. Beirut. Beirut, Raymond III of Tripoli, Lord of Beirut (1184-1186). URL: <https://www.numisbids.com/n.php?p=lot&sid=463&lot=2550> (date of request 07.12.2018).

market (the original coins Fig.28²⁰, Fig.30²¹ and the fake coins Fig.29, Fig.31), fake coins of Henry II (the original coin Fig.32²² and the fake coin Fig.33).

Fig.28



Fig.29



Fig.30



Fig.31 (ebay#123164419307)



20. Cyprus, Henry I Billon Denier. AD 1218-1253. URL: <https://www.acsearch.info/search.html?id=2068398> (date of request 07.12.2018).

21. A COLLECTION OF CRUSADER COINS OF CYPRUS, Henry I, Gateway Copper. URL: <https://www.sixbid.com/browse.html?auction=1500&category=31870&lot=1356160> (date of request 07.12.2018).

22. CRUSADERS, Lusignan Kingdom of Cyprus. Henry II. King of Cyprus & Jerusalem, 1285-1324. BI Denier URL: <https://www.acsearch.info/search.html?id=1330058> (date of request 07.12.2018).



Fig.32



Fig.33

Genovese colonies Mytilene and Enos

The coins of the state formations of the Latin East were not passed over by counterfeiters. Particularly, the fake coins of Denaro Dorino Gattilusio (1400-1449) appeared on the market (the original coin Fig.34²³ and the fake coin Fig.35).



Fig.34



Fig.35 (ebay#163004133371)

23. METELINO ed ENOS DORINO GATTILUSIO (1400-1449) AE Denaro. URL: https://www.vcoins.com/en/stores/london_ancient_coins/89/product/metelino_ed_enos_dorino_gattilusio_14001449_ae_denaro_very_rare/842693/Default.aspx (date of request 07.12.2018).

As we see, modern counterfeiters of ancient coins actively work on counterfeiting for collectors and museums of coins of the Crusader states. The counterfeiters use casting technology in most cases, although there are stamped falsifications. We shall not list in details all the signs of the counterfeit coins of the Crusaders, since the works of numismatists are used by counterfeiters to improve their «professional level». Let us recall only the essential textbook advice for a collector, which is contained in the specialized literature for several centuries. If you hold the coin of the Crusaders or received its photo, you should pay attention to the edge of the coin. If «the surface of the edge is completely smooth or depleted then it is a sign of a counterfeit coin. The pores sometimes noticeable on the surface of the coin prove that it was molded»²⁴. Thus, collectors for the assurance of their collection, at least from primitive forgery, examples of which we have presented, need to use the above two simple tips and must study the original coins, or at least their quality images from the catalogues of museums and reputable auction houses. And we shall continue trying to identify counterfeit coins of the Crusader states and report the readers about them.

The author wishes to express his gratitude to his colleague and collector of the coins of the Crusader states Vladislav Dementjev (USA) for the help in the collection of the materials for the article.

Нові дані про сучасні підробки монет держав хрестоносців

Нині нумізматичний ринок насичений сучасними фальсифікатами монет, які під виглядом автентичних монет зловмисники намагаються продати колекціонерам та музеям. Значний простір фальшивомонетникам для розвитку їх діяльності дають новітні технічні засоби. У зв'язку із поширенням продажу через Інтернет в останні роки виробництво підробних монет стало своєрідною індустрією. Проблема виявлення та аналізу нумізматичних підробок є однією із найбільш складних і недостатньо досліджених. Лише деякі питання сучасних фальсифікатів монет держав хрестоносців знайшли певне відображення в історіографії. Проблема дослідження сучасних фальсифікатів нумізматичних джерел лежить у площині двох наук: нумізматики та кримінального права З одного боку – це не фальшивомонетництво, адже фальсифікуються монети, які не перебувають у грошовому обігу, а з іншого – це підробка предметів колекціонування. І тут склад злочину або його відсутність залежить від умислу: чи мав сучасний фальсифікатор або продавець нумізматичних об'єктів намір збувати їх під виглядом оригіналів і вводити колекціонерів у оману.

Ключові слова: нумізMATИКА, монета, фальшивомонетництво, підробка, монетний фальсифікат, держави хрестоносців.

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