

**ON THE CHRONOLOGICAL
SEQUENCE OF THE
COINS OF BOETIA**

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BY

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INTRODUCTION.

THE basis of a scientific arrangement of the Coins of Bœotia has already been laid by Dr. Imhoof-Blumer in his two admirable articles in the *Numismatische Zeitschrift* of Vienna, vols. iii. and ix. In endeavouring to follow out in greater detail the study of the Numismatics of the Bœotian Confederacy, especially with the view of classifying the coins of the various epochs in chronological order, I shall not be accused of encroaching upon Dr. Imhoof's field. The object which he had chiefly in view was the correct attribution of the coins to the various Bœotian cities, a subject which numismatists, not possessed of the requisite knowledge either of the palæography or of the peculiarities of the Bœotian dialect, had allowed to fall into the direst confusion.

It is not too much to say that Dr. Imhoof-Blumer's two papers contain all that is necessary for a minute study of Bœotian numismatics.

In attempting to arrange the materials collected by him in a more strict chronological sequence, I do so rather in the hope of eliciting further criticism than with the idea that my classification will prove to be in all points final.

Bœotian coins, owing to the fact that the shield, which

as a rule they bear, offers, from first to last, the slightest possible indication of the progressive changes in the style of art, form, as a class, an extremely difficult series to arrange; and when, as is frequently the case, the coins of Bæotia have on one side a shield and on the other an amphora, the task becomes still more difficult. The amphora, like the shield, affords very slender scope for the display of those methods of work which often enable us to fix the date of a coin with a very near approach to certainty. Nevertheless, there are not wanting among the coins of Bæotia some few well-marked and characteristic reverse types which can only belong to certain definite epochs, and around these, upwards and downwards, we must find place as best we may for the various groups of coins with which we have to deal, keeping well and constantly in view fabric, style, palæography, and the historical possibilities of the period under consideration.

Among these fixed points or notes of time may be mentioned the Herakles types, circ. B.C. 446—426, with the well-defined incuse square; the gold coins of circ. B.C. 395—387; and the silver coins, with the infant Herakles, but without the incuse square, of the same period; a type which was at this time adopted by the cities of Ephesus, Samos, Rhodes, and Cnidus after the battle of Cnidus,¹ and especially the local Separatist currency of various Bæotian towns which obtained their autonomy on the temporary dissolution of the Bæotian League after the Peace of Antalcidas in B.C. 387.

The coins which bear the name of the illustrious Epaminondas are also very valuable, as indications of the date of the whole class to which they belong.

¹ Waddington, *Mélanges*, ii. p. 7 *seqq.*

These, together with some others, are the landmarks around which I have attempted to arrange the coins in the following sixteen historical periods, extending from about B.C. 600 down to the time of the Empire.

EPOCHS OF BŒOTIAN HISTORY AND COINAGE.

Period. Cir. B.C.

I. 600-550. Orchomenus and the Bœotian League.

Coinage of *Orchomenus* modelled upon that of Aegina. The earliest Bœotian federal coinage also consisting of Aeginetic drachms and smaller divisions, issued at *Thebes*, *Haliartus*, and *Tanagra*. Its characteristic type, the shield of Herakles, commonly called the Bœotian shield.

II. 550-480. Apparent advance in commercial activity.

First issue of the didrachm or stater in Bœotia. Coinage distinguished by initial letters of *Acrophiium*, *Coroneia*, *Haliartus*, *Mycalæsus*, *Phare*, *Tanagra*, and *Thebes*, which cities, with *Orchomenus*, were the leading members of the Union before the Persian wars.

III. 480-457. Effect on Bœotia of the Persian wars and humiliation of Thebes.

First introduction of reverse-types. Coinage struck at *Tanagra* in the name of the *Bœotians* 'in genere.' Origin of the wheel as a Tanagræan

Period. Circa. s.o.

coin-type in the worship of Apollo as a Sun-god at Delium (?), and of the amphora as a Theban type in that of Dionysus.

The coinage of *Orchomenus* remains unimportant.

IV. 456-446. **Athenian influence in Bœotia. Establishment of Democratical Constitutions.**

Coinage in this period at *Acraephium*, type, kantharos; *Coroneia*, type, Gorgon-head; *Haliartus*, types, amphora, kantharos; *Tanagra*, type, half-horse; *Thebes*, type, amphora.

V. 446-426. **Renewed ascendancy of Thebes.**

No coinage in Bœotia in this period except that of *Thebes*. Plentiful issue of Theban staters bearing various types, mainly representations of Herakles, of great artistic merit, resembling in style the contemporary works of the school of Pheidias.

VI. 426-395. **Continued hegemony of Thebes.**

The coinage of Bœotia still monopolised by *Thebes*; principal types, head of Herakles, head of Dionysus, amphora, &c.

VII. 395-387. **Anti-Spartan alliance between Thebes, Corinth, Argos, &c. Influx into Greece of Persian gold.**

Gold coined at *Thebes*, *obv.* head of Dionysus; *rev.* infant Herakles.

Silver coinage; types, amphora, infant Herakles, head of Dionysus facing, &c.

— 404
change

Period. Circ. a.c.

Abandonment of all traces of the incuse square.

- VIII. 387-374. Peace of Antalcidas: Its effect in Bœotia. Dissolution of the Bœotian League, and establishment of oligarchies under Spartan patronage in the various Bœotian cities. Seizure of the Cadmeia by the Spartans, B.C. 382; its recovery, B.C. 379.

Coinage in this period at *Charoneia*, \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{E} , type, club; *Copæ*, \mathcal{A} , \mathcal{E} , half bull, &c.; *Coroneia*, \mathcal{A} , Gorgon-head, head of Athena; *Haliartus*, \mathcal{A} , Poseidon Onchestius; *Lebadeia*, \mathcal{A} , thunderbolt; *Mycalessus*, \mathcal{A} , thunderbolt, &c.; *Orchomenus*, \mathcal{A} , horse, amphora, wheel, corn wreath, ear of corn, &c., \mathcal{E} , star; *Pharæ*, \mathcal{A} , amphora; *Plataæ*, \mathcal{A} , head of Hera, \mathcal{E} , head of Hera, bull, &c.; *Tanagra*, \mathcal{A} , half-horse, half-galley, &c.; *Thebes* for Bœotia 'in genere,' $\frac{1}{2}$ drachms with BO—I, &c.; *Thespiæ*, \mathcal{A} , crescents, head of Aphrodite with crescents, amphora with crescent; *Uncertain*, archaistic, \mathcal{A} , with amphora and various letters, A—P, Δ —I, Λ — Ω , H—I, &c.

- IX. 379-338. Thebes the leading State in Greece. Age of Pelopidas and Epaminondas.

Institution circ. 378 of a new federal currency. The coinage signed by one of the Bœotarchs (?) but not by the eponymous archon of the League.