

28. Leo III (717-741) and Artavasdus (742-743).

Constantinople; 40 nummi.

D. O. Class 1 (717-718). **ΘNDLE N) PAMUL.**

Armoured bust facing, bearded, holding spear behind head.

**M**, X/X to right (with dash below), officina letter beneath, **CON** below.



28.1.\*  
Officina Γ.  
D. O. 24, MIB 25.  
6.81 gms. 180.  
404.92.



D. O. Class 1 bis (718-720).  
Obverse legend mainly illegible.

Standing figure wearing crown and loros and holding akakia and long cross.

**M**, X/X to right, officina letter beneath, **CON** below.



28.2.  
Officina B.  
D. O. -, MIB 24.  
4.40 gms. 180.  
1943.13.<sup>1</sup>



D. O. Class 2 (720-732). **ΘNDLEO NPAMUL.**

Facing bust, bearded, wearing crown with cross and chlamys and holding globus cruciger and akakia.

**ΘNCONSC ANCTINUSM.**

Facing bust, bearded and similarly attired; all above **M** between A/N/N and X/X, **A** beneath.

Small module (circa 725-732).

28.3.  
D. O. 31a.  
2.86 gms. 180.  
253.88.<sup>2</sup>



28.4.  
D. O. 31a.  
2.28 gms. 170.  
405c.90.<sup>3</sup>



D. O. Class 4 (732-741).  
**LEON S CON** (or similar).

Two busts facing, each wearing crown with cross and chlamys and holding akakia.

**M** between X/X/X and N/N/N, officina letter beneath.

28.5.  
Officina A.  
D. O. 39a.  
2.70 gms. 180.  
178.87.



28.6.  
Officina B.  
D. O. 39b.  
3.66 gms. 180.  
2047.14.



Constantinople; 20 nummi.

D. O. Class 1 bis (718-720).  
Obverse legend mainly illegible.

Standing figure wearing crown and loros and holding akakia and long cross.  
K, X/X to right, Γ beneath.



28.7.\*  
D. O. (n. a.), MIB 26.  
2.66 gms. 180.  
1944.13.<sup>4</sup>

D. O. Class 2 (720-732). **ΘNDLEO** ....

Facing bust, bearded, wearing crown with cross and chlamys and holding globus cruciger and akakia.

**ΘNCO** . . . . (largely illegible).  
Facing bust, also bearded, similarly attired; all above **K** between **A/N/N** and **X/X**, [**A**] beneath.



28.8.\*  
D. O. 33.  
3.29 gms. 180.  
179.87.

D. O. Class 4 (732-741). **LEON S CON.**

Two busts facing, each wearing crown with cross and chlamys and holding akakia.

**K** between **X/X/X** and **N/N/N**, officina letter beneath.



28.9.  
Officina A.  
D. O. 41a.  
1.96 gms. 180.  
1528.11.

Syracuse; 40 nummi.

D. O. Class 1 (717-720). No obverse legend.

Standing figure wearing helmet and military garb and holding spear and globus cruciger.

**M** between palms, Leontine monogram above, **SCL** below.



28.10.\*  
D. O. 52, MIB 30.  
2.02 gms. 180.  
488.95.

D. O. Class 3 (721-730). **ΘNDLEO NPAM.**

Facing bust, bearded, wearing crown with cross and chlamys and holding globus cruciger and akakia.

**DNCON TANS.**

Facing bust, beardless, wearing crown with cross and chlamys and holding globus cruciger and akakia.; all above **M** between **SC** and **L**.



28.11.  
D. O. (54a), Sp. 318.  
4.64 gms. 180.  
64.84.<sup>5</sup>

D. O. Class 4 (731-741).

Leo standing facing, bearded, wearing crown and chlamys and holding akakia; between ΛΕΟΝ and ΔΕΠ.

Constantine standing facing, beardless, wearing crown and chlamys and holding akakia; between ΚΩΝC and ΔΕΠ.

28.12.  
D. O. 55, Sp. 319.  
2.28 gms. 180.  
53.84.



28.13.\*  
D. O. 55, Sp. 321.  
2.62 gms. 180.  
491.95.



Artavasdus (742-743).

Constantinople; 40 nummi.

Two busts facing, wearing loros and chlamys respectively, holding cross potent between them. M between X/X/X and N/N/N, A beneath.

28.14.\*  
D. O. 36.  
3.10 gms. 180.  
405.92.<sup>6</sup>



## REFERENCES AND GENERAL NOTES

On Easter Day 720, Leo's son, the future Emperor Constantine V, was created co-Augustus and appears together with his father on all the coinage described here that was issued after that date.

Strictly speaking, the coinage of the brief rule of the usurper Artavasdus, 742-743, should be associated with that of Constantine V, whose right to the throne he challenged. In practice, the single follis in the collection is best tacked on to the end of this chapter (see below).

At present, the coverage in MIB ends early in the reign of Leo III. D. O. attributes a rare coin (28.14) to this reign as Class 3 but Pottier H., *Restitution d'un follis à Artavasde, l'usurpateur usurpé* (Constantinople 742/3), in *Cercles d'Etudes Numismatiques*, volume 26, 1989, no. 1, gives it to Artavasdus, jointly with his son Nicephorus, on the basis of overstrikes and the reattribution of Leo III Class 4b, a common overstrike, to Constantine V. Grierson (1982) describes the reattribution as unlikely, but P. J. Donald (private correspondence) views it as plausible.

28.1-2. Grierson (in *Byzantine Coins*, 1982) conflicts with Hahn on the order of the first two issues. The case made by Grierson, that Class 1 bis belongs after 1 January 718 when Leo is likely to have assumed the consulship, seems to me the more persuasive. 28.2 is overstruck on a coin of Anastasius II or Theodosius III.

28.7. Possibly overstruck on a coin of Constantine IV.

28.8. Little of the lower part of the reverse is legible but only officina A appears to be known. Although B occurs on later coins of Leo III, the officina letters were, by this time, probably meaningless.

For Syracuse, Spahr, R., *Le Monete Siciliane dai Bizantini a Carlo I d'Angio (582-1282)*, Zurich and Graz, 1986 (Sp.).

28.10. See D. O. Volume 3, Part 1, p. 267, footnote to no. 52, which expresses the doubt that the Emperor is wearing a loros, a view that I share. This specimen does nothing to resolve the issue, but I think Leo is wearing military uniform. This would hardly be surprising given the precarious military position of these years.

28.12. A new type and a significant departure in design from the traditional products of the Syracuse mint.

28.13. Overstruck on a Syracuse follis of Anastasius II (MIB 32).

28.14. D. O. (36) gives this coin to Leo III, in 732, although pp. 233-234 discuss the difficulties of this tentative assignment. See Pottier, above. If he did order the follis to be struck, it is surprising that Artavasdus did not include instructions for an obverse legend.

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<sup>1</sup> Morton and Eden, 5-6 June 2013, ex lot 167; Carroll F. Wales collection.

<sup>2</sup> I. T. Roper collection.

<sup>3</sup> Baldwins, June 1992; ex Linville collection.

<sup>4</sup> Morton and Eden, 5-6 June 2013, ex lot 167; Carroll F. Wales collection.

<sup>5</sup> Spink auction 40, ex lot 328, December 1984.

<sup>6</sup> Glendinings, 8 April 1992, lot 80.