

34. The Comneni and the rulers of Trebizond and Cyprus.

Alexius I; pre-reform coinage (1081-1092).

Thessalonica; follis (1081-1092).

M-P Θ-V.

Facing bust of the Virgin, nimbate, wearing tunic and maphorion; facing bust of Christ on breast.

† ΛΛΞΙ ΔΕΠΟΤΤΩΚ (or similar).

Alexius standing facing, wearing crown and loros and holding labarum and globus cruciger.

34.1.*
H. pl. 3.1, Gr. 1024.
6.29 gms. 180.
434.94.



Uncertain mint; follis (1081-1092).

IC XC – NI KA in corners of cross on three steps.

†/CEPCVN/EPTEIBA/CIAEIAA/ΕΖΙΩ.

34.2.*
H. pl. 3.3, Gr. 1030.
3.16 gms. 180.
733.01.¹



Alexius I; post-reform coinage (1092-1118).

Constantinople; billon trachy (1092-1093).

ΙΩΔΕCΠΤ †ΚΕΡΟΗΘΕΙ.

Standing figures of Christ, to right, crowning John II, who holds labarum and globus cruciger.

†ΛΛΞΙΩΔΕ ΕΙΡΗΝΙΑΥΡΥ (or similar).

Alexius and Irene standing facing, both wearing crown and loros and holding patriarchal cross between them.

34.3.*
H. pl. 6.10-11.
3.08 gms. 170.
328.90.



Thessalonica.

Tetarteron; (1092-1118).

M-P Θ-V. Facing bust of the Virgin, nimbate, orans, wearing tunic and maphorion.

†Α ΛΕC. Bust of Alexius I facing wearing crown and chlamys and labarum on shaft and globus cruciger.

34.4.
H. pl. 8.9.
4.61 gms. 210.
450.94.



Lead half tetarteron (1092).

Half length figures of Christ and Alexius holding labarum standard between them.

Α/ΛΕ. Half length figures of Alexius and Irene holding cross between them.

34.5.
Gr. 1023.
3.76 gms. 160.
336.90.²



Full length figures of Saint Demetrius and Alexius holding labarum standard between them.

Full length figures of Alexius and Irene holding cross between them.

34.6.
Gr. 1035.
5.28 gms. 040.
338.90.³



Bust of Christ facing with nimbus cross.

Half length figure of Alexius wearing crown and holding cross sceptre and globus cruciger.

34.7.*
Gr. 1046.
5.05 gms. 190.
337.90.⁴



Andronicus I (1183-1185).

Thessalonica; tetarteron.

M-P Θ-V. Facing bust of the Virgin, nimbate, orans, wearing pallium and maphorion; nimbate head of Christ on her breast.

Half length figure of Andronicus facing, wearing crown and holding labarum and globus cruciger.

34.8.
H. pl. 19.2.
3.34 gms. 180.
278.89.



The Gabrades at Trebizond (1075-1140).

Christ enthroned, with cross nimbus, wearing tunic and himation, right hand held in blessing, left hand holds gospels.

Latin cross, jewelled with pellets; semi-circular decoration beneath.

34.9.*
Gr. 1006.
2.25 gms. 180.
812.02.



Isaac Comnenus (usurper on Cyprus; 1184-1191).

Nicosia; tetarteron.

Bust of Christ, bearded and nimbate, wearing tunic and colobion; right hand raised in blessing, left hand holds gospels.

Bust of Isaac facing, wearing stemma, scaramangion or divitision, and sagion; holds in right hand sceptre cruciger.

34.10.
H. pl. 19.13-14.
3.03 gms. 180.
1609.12.⁵



Christ enthroned, beardless and nimbate, wearing tunic and colobion; right hand raised in blessing, left hand holds scroll.

Full length figures of Isaac holding sceptre cruciger and the Virgin nimbate; latter crowning Isaac.



34.11.*
H. pl. 21.13.
3.07 gms. 180.
2065.14.⁶

34.9. Bendall, S., *The Mint of Trebizond under Alexius I and the Gabrades*, *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1977, no. 5. Also, *D. O. Volume 3, Part 2*, p. 705 (Class M anonymous follis).

34.11. Hendy describes this as of uncertain attribution between Isaac Angelus and Isaac of Cyprus. Grierson (1982; number 1125) gives it to the latter on the basis of find spots and the form of the portrait of Christ.

¹ Baldwins, July 2001.

² Baldwins, March 1990.

³ Baldwins, March 1990.

⁴ Baldwins, March 1990.

⁵ P. J. Donald, March 2012; from Spink, October 1980.

⁶ Baldwins, December 2014.

REFERENCES AND GENERAL NOTES

Hendy, M. F., *Coinage and Money in the Byzantine Empire, 1081-1261*, *Dumbarton Oaks Studies XII*, *Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies*, Washington DC, 1969 (H.). Also, Grierson, P., *Byzantine Coins*, London and Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1982 (Gr.).

34.1. Grierson assigns the coin to Constantinople while Hendy favours Thessalonica.

34.2. Grierson suggests that the coin may belong to a mint in Asia Minor or northern Syria (perhaps Edessa).

34.3. This coin commemorates the association on the Imperial throne of Alexius' son John (later John II).

Thessalonica: lead half tetartera.

In view of their iconography, two of these coins (34.5-6) were probably struck to mark the wider currency reform of 1092; see Grierson (1982) p. 219 and pp. 227-228. The coins are poorly made and it is difficult to make out what legends are present and, in most cases, even the exact form of dress.

34.7. Grierson, somewhat confusingly (pp. 227-228), appears to assign this to Constantinople, but Thessalonica is much more likely. A fuller explanation may be given in *D. O. Volume IV*. On this specimen the details of the portrayal of Christ are particularly hard to make out. The coin may have been issued later than 1092.