

35. Contemporary forgeries.

Profile bust type.

35.1.
Anastasius I
(cf D. O. 23).
CON; A.
9.96 gms. 000.
1462.09.



35.2.*
Anastasius I (D. O. 24d).
Γ.
6.58 gms. 190.
841.02.



35.3.*
Justin I (D. O. 8a).
CON; A.
14.75 gms. 000.
346.90.



35.4.
Justin I (D. O. 8a).
CON; A.
12.78 gms. 180.
542.95.



35.5.
Justin I (D. O. 8c).
CON; Γ.
14.52 gms. 150.
376.91.



35.6.
Justin I (D. O. 8d).
CON; Δ.
11.84 gms. 040.
537.95.



35.7.*
Justin I (D. O. 8e).
CON; €.
9.71 gms. 180.
1729.12.¹



35.8.
Justin I (D. O. 8e).
CON; €.
8.71 gms. 140.
540.95.



35.9.
Justin I (D. O. 11).
+ +; CON; €.
13.46 gms. 160.
569.96.



35.10.*
Justin I.
ΠΟΩ; Π.
13.08 gms. 180.
539.95.



35.11.
Justin I (D. O. 47).
ANTIX; A.
14.12 gms. 180.
538.95.



35.12.*
Justin I (D. O. 50).
A/T N/X; B.
6.84 gms. 010.
424.92.



35.13.*
 DNIVSϚINI
 ANVSCPPAVΛ.
 NOC; A.
 11.58 gms. 000.
 173.87.²



35.16.*
 DNIVS VSPPAΔ.
 K; XX/I to right,
 NI below.
 6.27 gms. 090.
 664.99.



Balkan or Gepid imitations.

35.14.
 Justinian I (D. O. 28c).
 CON; Γ.
 9.56 gms. 180.
 597.97.



35.17.*
 NVIII ΠΙΛΠΛ.
 15.21 gms. 150.
 595.97.



35.15.*
 Justinian I
 (D. O. 212a).
 OΛS; A.
 13.55 gms. 180.
 543.95.



35.18.
 VIΔZ
 12.10 gms. 180.
 442.94.



Profile bust - uncertain prototypes.

35.19.*
12.71 gms. 200.
541.95.



35.22.*
CON; A.
Year 6.
9.78 gms. 330.
1463.09.⁴



35.20.
K between long cross
and C; stars above
and beneath.
4.94 gms. 190.
1327.07.



35.23.
CON; A.
Year 6.
6.34 gms. 220.
1306.07.



Facing bust type; 40 nummi.

NIKO or similar.

CON or similar.

35.21.
IIOC; B.
Year II.
17.19 gms. 180.
1281.06.³



35.24.*
NIKO; A.
Year III.
13.52 gms. 000.
323.90.



NIKO or similar.

35.25.
Maurice (D. O. -).
NIKO; A.
Year II/II.
11.62 gms. 180.
1789.12.⁵



35.26.
NIK; A.
Year G/II.
10.09 gms. 150.
1975.13.



35.27.
ONK; Γ.
Year G/II.
11.82 gms. 170.
1995.13.



THEUP or similar.

35.28.*
Maurice (D. O. 159a).
THEUP.
Year G/II.
10.98 gms. 180.
1927.13.



35.29.
Maurice (D. O. 164c).
THEUP; Γ.
Year X/II.
8.67 gms. 200.
504.95.⁶



35.30.
Maurice (D. O. 172b).
THEUP; Γ.
Year X/X.
8.74 gms. 000.
1567.11.



Half folles; Thessalonica.

35.31.*
Maurice (D. O. -).
TH; year I.
5.61 gms. 180.
768.02.



35.32.*
Justin II (D. O. 63).
TES; year III.
3.83 gms. 200.
1052.06.



35.33.
Justin II (D. O. 63).
TES; year III.
3.50 gms. 200.
1940.13.



35.34.*
Maurice (D. O. 77).
TES; year U.
6.04 gms. 200.
726.01.



Half folles; Antioch.

35.35.
Maurice (D. O. 186).
R; IX.
3.46 gms. 000.
1401.08.



35.36.
Maurice (D. O. 187).
R; year XII.
⊔ beneath K.
3.72 gms. 090.
469.95.



Half folles; uncertain prototype.

35.37.*
B; year I.
5.89 gms. 270.
379.91.



35.38.
A; year II.
8.02 gms. 160.
785.02.



35.39.*
Λ; year III.
4.70 gms. 150.
1628.12.



35.40.
Year III.
8.24 gms. 170.
383.91.⁷



35.41.*
Year III.
8.26 gms. 030.
666.00.



35.42.
Year III.
6.80 gms. 200.
1034.06.

Two standing figures type; 40 nummi.



35.43.
Phocas (D. O. 69b).
KYZ; B.
Year I.
11.59 gms. 020.
1968.13.



35.44.
Heraclius (D. O. 76d).
Δ. Year III.
10.04 gms. 000.
466.94.

35.45.
Heraclius (D. O. 79c).
CON; Γ.
Year II/II.
540.95.



REFERENCES AND GENERAL NOTES

The coins described in this chapter are of three iconographical types, reflecting the order of issue of their prototypes: profile bust; facing bust; two standing figures. Examples of non-regular coins of all three kinds are also included in other places in the catalogue, for example, in the chapters on an emergency coinage in Antioch (6) and the coinage of Syria under Persian occupation (19). Forgeries, i.e., counterfeit coins made to deceive, belong here. Minting activity proper, even outside that of the Imperial administration, such as the Year 20 mint (chapter 21) - often evidenced by the existence of die-link chains - appears designed, fundamentally, to introduce non-regular coins into wider circulation for a specific purpose, for example to send a political message or to make up for a shortage of currency. By contrast, forged coins may be assumed to be directed at individual transactions. There are grey areas.

I have resisted the temptation to introduce systematic, but essentially artificial, subdivisions relating to reigns, mints and workshops, and date arrangements. The prototypes are often unclear and interpretations may differ. Where the prototype is clear, the D. O. reference follows (in parentheses) to enable comparison with the regular coins to be made. Legends are mostly not spelled out. Mint marks and pseudo-dates are given in the text boxes where they can clearly be interpreted.

35.2. On this half follis, the Emperor's costume is unusually elaborate and the engraving is well executed. It is probably a forgery.

35.3. The obverse die is smaller than that of the reverse but neither seems to be official.

35.7. Struck on a thin flan. There is a crude cross to the left of the denominational mark M and a

star to the right – a juxtaposition of the usual arrangement.

35.10. **M** between **II** and **II/V**; none of which is likely to have any real meaning. There is no obvious prototype.

35.12. The reverse die could be regular; it is not impossible that this is a regular half follis of Antioch albeit one badly made.

35.13. It is unlikely that the reverse die is regular. The obverse copies D. O. 30a although the stars have eight points on this specimen. The reverse die links to a coin bearing the legend for Anastasius and to a further coin with the legend for Justinian, both of which are slightly barbarous. See Donald, P. J., and Mansfield, S. J., Some thoughts on the life of a curious reverse die, London Numismatic Club Newsletter, date uncertain – possibly 1988. This article points to the possibility of an extended, perhaps interrupted, period of forging. No further specimens have, to my knowledge, come to light since 1987.

35.15. The obverse legend appears to end . . . **CVAPPAVC**.

35.16. A curious coin with an obviously barbarous profile portrait and a reverse which could pass as a regular Nicomedian half follis of year 21 (cf Ratto 610).

35.17-18. Anecdotally at least, these imitations are sometimes given to the Balkans. Little of either reverse can be made out but the obverses are of similar and distinctive style. Number 35.18 is die-linked to a coin sold in Munzen und Medaillen auction 175, lot 32 (as a coin imitating Justinian I). A more recent Italian sale catalogue prepared by the Rome auctioneers A & B in autumn 2000 (lot 430) made the speculative attribution to a rare issue of the Gepids (imitating coins of Anastasius I).

35.19. The fragments of the legend and the portrait appear slightly unusual, but it is possible that the coin is a regular issue, probably of Constantinople and possibly from the fifth officina.

35.22-23. Die-linked. The coins copy the Class 1 follis of Heraclius but with an impossible date (year 6) since Class 1 was not issued after regnal year 3.

35.24. The unusual combination of a consular bust with a capital denominational mark **M**. The coin may be cast.

35.28. A coin of good manufacture. The style of the portrait is unusual with the trefoil enclosed within the peak of the crown. The form of the date arrangement is also unusual. Whether it is a contemporary forgery or the product of a non-regular, perhaps military, mint is uncertain.

Facing bust: half folles.

Four of the 10 half follis forgeries catalogued here derive from Thessalonican prototypes so it seems appropriate to list them first. Similarly, two coins seem to be based on regular issues of the Antioch mint. The remaining four coins are described in the order of their date arrangement.

35.31. The date arrangement (**I**) is preceded by a star. The facing bust type was introduced at Thessalonica only in regnal year 2. This coin precedes the next two which, being die-linked, need to be illustrated side by side.

35.32-33. Die-linked.

35.34. The portrait is unusual and the reverse lettering is spidery but the coin may be regular.

35.37. The reverse die is incorrectly engraved with the position of the cross and the officina letter (**B**) juxtaposed. The obverse may be struck from a regular follis die of the mint of Nicomedia.

35.39. The portrait is neatly engraved and the legend – **ON MVC TAVV** – implies that a reference to Maurice is intended.

35.40. Overstruck on a small module Constantinople half follis of Anastasius I. It is difficult to conclude anything significant about the prototype for the obverse.

35.41-42. Die linked. Like 35.37, the reverses have elements juxtaposed.

¹ Hoard B, Numismatic Chronicle 2013, no. 10.

² Sotheby's, 16 July 1987, ex lot 147.

³ Hoard A, Numismatic Chronicle 2013, no. 236.

⁴ November 2009, Zurqieh Coins.

⁵ Hoard B, Numismatic Chronicle 2013, no. 70.

⁶ N. Fairhead, September 1995 - with a Baldwin's ticket stating the coin to be a contemporary imitation of Antioch.

⁷ W. Veres, July 1991.