

39. Rare and unpublished coins.

In the catalogue itself the relative rarity of the coins is seldom referenced. It might, nevertheless, be of interest to account (in their chronological order) for 15 selected specimens that are rare, unpublished or important, giving some idea of the number of known specimens (in most cases only a few) and providing background notes. These are presented here in their chronological order. Following this, there is a list of unrecorded variants. Neither section takes account of the later edition of MIBE (in 2013).

39.1. Joint reign half follis of Constantinople (catalogue 3.2).



D. O. -, MIBE 5. The only specimen from the fourth officina noted in MIBE is in the Romanian Academy Institute of Archaeology in Bucharest.

39.2. Supplementary issue half follis of Justinian at Constantinople (537/8) (catalogue 4.26).



MIBE N91. MIBE notes only one other specimen which is in the National Museum in Leskovac in Serbia.

39.3. Post-reform follis of Justinian I (Constantinople, regnal year 12): light module (catalogue 4.28).



Numismatic Chronicle, volume 173 (2013), pl. 69, B-21. D. O. -, MIBE - . Possibly unique.

39.4. Military mint follis of Justin II (CON; year 8) (catalogue 9.14).



D. O. -, MIBE - . Seemingly unpublished. The corresponding half folles (MIBEC 91) are relatively common. The left hand side of the reverse is flatly struck but the date arrangement is 4/II without any question.

39.5. Military mint follis of Justin II (Ravenna; year 11) (catalogue 9.33).



Apparently unique. Mansfield, S. J., A Byzantine Temporary Mint and Justin II's Lombard Campaign, *Numismatic Chronicle* 174 (2014), pp. 205-212. Found near Paphos, Cyprus, circa 1990.

39.6. Thessalonica follis of Maurice of regnal year 20 (catalogue 12.1).



Berk: *Fewer than five specimens recorded*. Six are known of which two (in the Hermitage and the collection of the American Numismatic Society) are in public collections. A specimen holds the world record price for a Byzantine copper coin (Ira and Larry Goldberg auction of 26 May 2009 - lot 2074).

39.7. Carthage follis of Phocas of indictional year 5 (606/7) (catalogue 15.71).



Berk: *Fewer than five recorded*. While the coin is rare, this is probably an exaggeration - there are specimens at Dumbarton Oaks, the British Museum, the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Fitzwilliam Museum.

39.8. Follis of the coronation issue of Heraclius Constantine (January 613) (catalogue 17.29).



First published in the *Numismatic Circular* in August 2001. Specimens are in the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Hermitage and a further three are known in private collections.

39.9. Constantinople follis of Heraclius of regnal year 20 from the fifth officina: Emperor with sword (catalogue 17.151).



MIB - . MIB does not record the fifth officina (sometimes used for special tasks) for this enormous issue. The variant portraying Heraclius holding a sword is rare ; see Supplement to the *Journal of the Oriental Numismatic Society*, Autumn 2007, figure 4.

39.10. Jerusalem siege follis of April-May 614 (catalogue 18.123).



MIB x27. Less than 20 specimens are known. Only one is in a public collection (the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, United Kingdom).

39.11. Heraclius follis of Thessalonica of regnal year 31 (catalogue 19.51).



MIB 223. The only other example noted is in the Barber Institute of Fine Arts in Birmingham, United Kingdom. There is a second specimen in this collection; catalogue 19.50. Whether the issue belongs to regnal year 31 (640/41) is questionable.

39.12. Half follis of Leontius from a Sicilian mint (catalogue 27.3).



First published in the Numismatic Circular in November 1999. A second specimen has since been noted in trade. Both regnal (year 1) and indictional dates (year 10) are possible – 695/6 and 696/7 respectively.

39.13. Sole reign follis of Nicephorus I from the mint of Syracuse (catalogue 31.3).



D. O. (9) (Ricotti 201); Spahr 342 – RR (very rare). Struck prior to the elevation of Stauracius before the end of December 803. The obverse and reverse legends both name Nicephorus.

39.14. The Gabrades at Trebizond (1075-1140) (catalogue 34.9).



Rare. D. O. Volume 3, Part 2, p. 705 (Class M anonymous follis).

39.15. Ae fals of Tripoli or Qawrayan: Hassan Ibn al-Nu'man al-Ghassani – the earliest dated copper coin of Islamic North Africa (catalogue 37.26).



Goodwin, A. and Gyselen, R., *The Irbid Hoard of Arab-Byzantine Coins*, Ch. 1, cat. 65 (this coin). Also, Jonson, T., *The Earliest Islamic Copper Coinage of North Africa* (in *Coinage and History in the Seventh Century Near East 4*) - who lists 22 known specimens. Legends: *in the name of God, al-Nu'man ordered this in the year 80*.

## Unrecorded variants.

This section, in the form of a check list, describes coins with unrecorded iconographical variations, regnal years and officina letters, together with some further rare coins<sup>1</sup>. Only the products of the official and military mints are included. As before, it does not take account of MIBEC (2013). The notes are necessarily brief and reference should be made to the full descriptions in the catalogue via the numbers in the first column. Unpublished should, of course, always be construed as apparently unpublished and unique as apparently unique.

- (1) Denomination (in nummi).  
 (2) Mint mark in parentheses: the coin has no signature but is attributed to the mint.  
 (3) Regnal year except where indictional year (IY/\*). Where of significance, the probable period of issue for particularly interesting or unpublished coins is given in italics.

| Catalogue                    | (1) | Mint (2) | Off. | (3)           | MIB       | Notes   |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|---------------|-----------|---|
| Anastasius I.                |     |          |      |               |           |   |
| 1.46                         | 40  | CON      | €    | <i>517/8</i>  | MIBE -    | MIBE 30, var. Possible trial piece with pellets in reverse lower fields |
| Justin I.                    |     |          |      |               |           |   |
| 2.38                         | 40  | NIKO     | A    | 4*            | MIBE -    | Unpublished; IY 2 or 6 are possible                                     |
| 2.49                         | 40  | ANT      | Δ    | <i>522-7</i>  | MIBE -    | Unpublished; upward facing crescent                                     |
| Justinian I – eastern mints. |     |          |      |               |           |   |
| 4.1                          | 40  | CON      | €    | <i>527-37</i> | MIBE V87  | Unique; pellet below each cross   |
| 4.2                          | 40  | CON      | B    |               | MIB V88   | MIBE lists only officina Γ  |
| 4.44                         | 10  | CON      | B    | 28            | MIBE -    | MIBE 100 - regnal year 28 unrecorded                                    |
| 4.45                         | 10  | CON      | €    | 28            | MIBE -    | MIBE 100 - regnal year 28 unrecorded                                    |
| 4.51                         | 40  | NIK M    | A    | <i>537-8</i>  | MIBE V108 | Leaf following mint mark  |
| 4.88                         | 10  | ANTIX    | Δ    |               | MIBE -    | MIBE NN137 lists only officina A.                                       |
| Justinian I – western mints. |     |          |      |               |           |   |
| 5.19                         | 40  | CAR      | S    | 17            | MIBE -    | MIBE 197 - regnal year 17 unrecorded                                    |
| 5.29                         | 5   | CAR      |      |               | MIBE -    | Unrecorded profile bust with helmet                                     |
| Justin II – official mints.  |     |          |      |               |           |   |
| 8.62                         | 40  | KYZ      | B    | 8             | MIBEC 50d | Cross on pellet unrecorded for year 8                                   |
| 8.72                         | 20  | KYZ      |      | 10            | MIBEC 51b | Pellet before date arrangement X  |

<sup>1</sup> In the tradition of so doing, for example C. D. Sherborn, I. T. Roper, etc., similar lists compiled by whom have appeared in the Numismatic Chronicle over the years. A number of these coins are discussed in greater detail elsewhere in this chapter and in the numismatic notes in chapter 40.

|      |    |          |  |   |           |                         |
|------|----|----------|--|---|-----------|-------------------------|
| 8.90 | 20 | R (Ant.) |  | 8 | MIBEC 60a | Date arrangement as IIQ |
|------|----|----------|--|---|-----------|-------------------------|

Justin II – military mints.

|      |    |     |   |    |                          |                       |
|------|----|-----|---|----|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9.34 | 40 | KYZ | B | 11 | Tolstoi 152 <sup>2</sup> | Three specimens known |
|------|----|-----|---|----|--------------------------|-----------------------|

Tiberius II.

|          |    |          |   |     |         |   |
|----------|----|----------|---|-----|---------|---|
| 10.62-63 | 20 | R (Ant.) |   | 5-6 | MIBEC - | Flat topped crown; see MIBEC 51a              |
| 10.68    | 10 | R (Ant.) | Γ | 7   | MIBEC - | MIBEC 60b lists regnal year 8 only            |
| 10.84    | 20 | ΤΕΗΥΡ    |   | 5   | MIBEC - | Numismatic Circular, August 2003 <sup>3</sup> |

Maurice – eastern mints.

|          |    |        |   |       |           |                                       |
|----------|----|--------|---|-------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 11.8     | 40 | CON    | Γ | 1     | MIBEC 65C | ONMAVR C(I)PPAVI <sup>4</sup>         |
| 11.53    | 40 | CON    | Δ | 11    | MIBEC -   | MIBEC N66Da var. – crown with trefoil |
| 11.99    | 20 | (CON)  | Γ | 13    | MIBEC -   | MIBEC 70D does not note officina Γ    |
| 11.102   | 20 | (CON)  | A | 16    | MIBEC -   | MIBEC 69D does not note officina A    |
| 11.112   | 10 | CON    | Δ |       | MIBEC 73C | Christogram, not star, in left field  |
| 11.156   | 20 | (NIKO) | B | 8     | MIBEC -   | MIBEC 80a – no regnal years after 7   |
| 11.160-3 | 20 | (NIKO) | B | 10/11 | MIBEC 80D | Anomalous style but probably regular  |
| 11.164   | 20 | (NIKO) | A | 13    | MIBEC 80D | MIBEC does not note officina A        |
| 11.211-2 | 10 | KYZ    | A |       | MIBEC -   | Armoured bust - helmet with plume     |
| 11.227   | 40 | ΤΕΗΥΡ  |   | 1     | MIBEC -   | Cross surmounting crown               |

Maurice – western mints.

|       |    |       |  |       |         |  |
|-------|----|-------|--|-------|---------|--|
| 12.18 | 10 | ΤΕΣ   |  | 14    | MIBEC - | MIBEC 115D does not record year 14           |
| 12.25 | 10 | (CAR) |  | 592/7 | MIBEC - | Attribution on grounds of style <sup>5</sup> |
| 12.27 | 10 | (CAR) |  | 602   | MIBEC - | Apparently unpublished <sup>6</sup>          |

Phocas.

|       |    |       |  |     |          |                                 |
|-------|----|-------|--|-----|----------|---------------------------------|
| 15.2  | 40 | ΤΕΗΥΡ |  | 3   | MIBEC -  | MIBEC 60 does not record year 3 |
| 15.73 | 10 | (CAR) |  | 602 | MIBEC 99 | Bust of Maurice                 |

Heraclius – eastern mints.

|                     |    |       |   |    |         |                                   |
|---------------------|----|-------|---|----|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 17.93               | 40 | CON   | Ε | 17 | MIB 162 | MIB does not record officina Ε    |
| 17.160              | 40 | CONΘ  | Ε | 30 | MIB 165 | Class 5 muled with year 30 (CONΘ) |
| 17.167              | 40 | CONΘ  | Δ | 31 | MIB 167 | MIB does not record officina Δ    |
| 17.171 <sup>7</sup> | 30 | CON   | Δ | 21 | MIB 168 | MIB does not record officina Δ    |
| 17.174              | 20 | (CON) | A | 3  | MIB 169 | MIB does not record officina A    |
| 17.177              | 20 | (CON) | Δ | 7  | MIB 170 | MIB does not record officina Δ    |
| 17.180              | 20 | (CON) | B | 17 | MIB 170 | MIB does not record officina B    |

<sup>2</sup> Given to the official mint of Cyzicus.

<sup>3</sup> Mansfield, S. J., A "Military" Half Follis of Tiberius II.

<sup>4</sup> This legend is recorded only for regnal year 2 and onward.

<sup>5</sup> Fairhead, N., A New Quarter Follis of Maurice Tiberius of Carthage, Numismatic Circular, March 1981, p. 77.

<sup>6</sup> Also, CNG, sale 93, lot 1328.

<sup>7</sup> Heraclius holds a sword.

|          |    |        |   |        |         |  |
|----------|----|--------|---|--------|---------|--|
| 17.182-3 | 20 | (CON)  | Γ | 18     | MIB 170 | MIB does not record officina Γ           |
| 18.68    | 20 | (NIKO) | A | 3      | MIB 179 | MIB does not record officina A           |
| 18.69    | 20 | (NIKO) | A | 6      | MIB -   | Unrecorded in MIB                        |
| 18.70    | 20 | (NIKO) | B | 17     | MIB -   | Unrecorded in MIB                        |
| 18.102   | 40 | KYZ    | A | 17     | MIB 186 | MIB does not record year 17 <sup>8</sup> |
| 18.106   | 40 | KYZ    | € | 19     | MIB 186 | MIB does not note officina €             |
| 18.158   | 12 | ΑΛΕΞ   |   | 629-31 | MIB -   | Unrecorded mule – Class 4/2 <sup>9</sup> |

Heraclius – western mints.

|        |    |       |   |    |                       |                                    |
|--------|----|-------|---|----|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 19.18  | 20 | Θ€C   |   | 13 | MIB -                 | MIB 228 does not record year 13    |
| 19.19  | 20 | Θ€C   |   | 14 | MIB -                 | MIB 228 does not record year 14    |
| 19.22  | 10 | (Τ€S) |   | 9  | MIB 232 <sup>10</sup> | Year 9 unrecorded for the 10 nummi |
| 19.30  | 40 | Θ€C   | A | 19 | MIB 221               | Officina A unrecorded for MIB 221  |
| 19.46  | 20 | Θ€C   |   | 18 | MIB -                 | MIB 229 does not record year 18    |
| 19.47  | 20 | Θ€C   |   | 19 | MIB -                 | MIB 229 does not record year 19    |
| 19.47a | 20 | Θ€C   |   | 20 | MIB -                 | MIB 229 does not record year 20    |

Constans II.

|       |    |       |   |    |       |                                    |
|-------|----|-------|---|----|-------|------------------------------------|
| 21.13 | 40 | (CON) | € | 11 | MIB - | MIB 169 does not record officina € |
|-------|----|-------|---|----|-------|------------------------------------|

Constantine IV.

|      |    |       |  |     |       |                      |
|------|----|-------|--|-----|-------|----------------------|
| 25.5 | 20 | (CON) |  | 675 | MIB - | Class 1/Class 3 mule |
|------|----|-------|--|-----|-------|----------------------|

Justinian II.

|      |    |       |   |   |       |  |
|------|----|-------|---|---|-------|--|
| 26.4 | 20 | (CON) | Γ | 6 | MIB - | MIB 47 does not record officina Γ              |
| 26.5 | 20 | (CON) | A | 1 | MIB - | Constantine IV/Justinian II mule <sup>11</sup> |

Leontius.

|      |    |       |  |   |       |                                      |
|------|----|-------|--|---|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 27.4 | 10 | (SCL) |  | 1 | MIB - | Possibly a new 10 nummi for Leontius |
|------|----|-------|--|---|-------|--------------------------------------|

Tiberius III.

|      |    |       |   |   |       |                                   |
|------|----|-------|---|---|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 27.7 | 20 | (CON) | Γ | 4 | MIB - | MIB 76 does not record officina Γ |
|------|----|-------|---|---|-------|-----------------------------------|

<sup>8</sup> It is difficult to be entirely certain about the regnal year.

<sup>9</sup> A redundant reverse die – possibly datable to 629-629 on the recovery of Alexandria from the Persians.

<sup>10</sup> MIB: Constantinople.

<sup>11</sup> This explanation depends on the reading of regnal year 1. I am not certain.