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NÜMİSMATİK  
DERNEĞİ**



**THE TURKISH  
NUMISMATIC  
SOCIETY**

## **II. ULUSLARARASI NÜMİSMATİK SEMPOZYUMU**



**THE NOTES OF II<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
NUMISMATIC SYMPOSIUM**

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## SOME ADDITIONS TO TURKOMAN FIGURAL BRONZE COINS AND THEIR ICONOGRAPHY

Wayne G. SAYLES

Volume I of *Turkoman Figural Bronze Coins and Their Iconography (S/S)*, published in 1992, was the first attempt in many years to consolidate the widely scattered information accumulated by numismatists over two previous centuries. This work, dealing with the Artuqid principalities of the Jazira, was undertaken not by an institution, nor a professional scholar, but by two amateurs who were passionate about the subject and longed for a more orderly approach to this exciting field of numismatics. The product of that effort exceeded the expectations of the authors and has since become the standard reference to this small series for both collectors and academic numismatists. It was a distinct pleasure and an honor for William F. Spengler and myself to present at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium of the Turkish Numismatic Society a brief summary of our work. Unfortunately, we cannot join you personally in celebrating this added milestone today but we do join you in spirit. Bill Spengler has left us for a greater reward, and we will sadly miss him. He would be gratified that our initial work has spurred a wider interest in Turkoman coins and has led to the recording of some new information gleaned through the attention of many new watchful eyes. It is a tribute to those who have gone before us that there are not more new discoveries than we have seen.

Having inherited the library and notes of Mr. Spengler, it is my pleasure to share here a note that he made regarding the coinage of Nâsir al-Din Artuq Arslan (AH 597-637), the Artuqid ruler of Mardin. The prolific coinage of this ruler accounts for no less than 12 of the 58 Artuqid types recorded in S/S. Eleven of these coin types are figural and one with legends on obverse and reverse (S/S 41) was included for historical continuity. It was not generally our intention to include the purely epigraphic coinage, but exceptions were made when a coin type had some worthy historical contribution to make. In fact, S/S 41 was the only non-figural coin of the Artuqids at Mardin included in our study. One other from Amid was issued by Rukn al-Din Mawdud. Artuq Arslan's figural AE dirhem with Turk seated facing and crosslegged (S/S 48) was issued from AH 634 through AH 637 inclusive. In the year 635, concurrent with his figural coin issue of the above type, Artuq Arslan issued a legend/legend type coin that should now be added to the survey as S/S 48A. It is a bronze fals, being roughly half the size of the S/S 48 figural dirhem. In 1997, Mr. Spengler was a guest of Drs. Michael and Neathery Fuller at the archaeological excavation of Tell Tuneinir in Syria. This site is located in northern Syria between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers on the banks of the Khabur. Medieval Islamic coins have been found in significant numbers at this site and the distribution of mints suggests strong economic ties eastward, northward and westward<sup>1</sup>. While excavating at Tell Tuneinir, Mr. Spengler uncovered coin #1667 which was not attributed in camp, but later was identified by Stephen Album as a coin of Artuq Arslan. A specimen of this type (Fig. 1) also resides in the collection of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and was published by Gilles Hennequin<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Fuller, Michael and Neathery. "Artuqid, Zengid, and Ayyubid coins from Tell Tuneinir, Syria", *Turkoman Figural Bronze Coins and Their Iconography, Vol. II - The Zengids*, Clío's Cabinet, Lodi, WI, 1996, pp. 128-147.

<sup>2</sup> Hennequin, Gilles. *Catalogue des Monnaies Musulmanes de la Bibliothèque Nationale, Asie Pré-Mongole, Les Salguqs et Leurs Successeurs*, Paris, 1985, nos. 1280-1281.

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Fig. 1 = S/S 48A

The legend on this coin cites one Sultan al-Mu'azzam Ghiyâth al-Dunya wa al-Din, the Seljuq of Rum perhaps better known as Kai-khusraw II (AH 634-644). The setting for this issue is the murder of Kai-qubâd in the Spring of AH 634 and the rise to power of his eldest son Kai-khusraw amidst intense, indeed bloody, sibling rivalry<sup>3</sup>. Kai-khusraw had been Malik of Erzinjân and inherited a region under intense pressure from the Mongols. On the eve of the Mongol invasion, the many small principalities of eastern Anatolia had little choice but to choose allegiances and alliances<sup>4</sup>. Initially, Kai-khusraw aligned himself with the Ayyubid prince of Aleppo, al-Nâsir. When that young prince died shortly thereafter, Kai-khusraw joined a coalition of princes of the Upper Jazira and was promised the Artuqid city of Amid (Diyarbakir). Although Kai-khusraw apparently did not occupy Amid, the vassalage attested by coins of Aleppo and by this Artuqid coin from Mardin suggests that his power extended well south of his political center. This is also confirmed by surviving texts that indicate the ability of Kai-khusraw to negotiate treaties directly with Christian states<sup>5</sup>. Although this coin elucidates a very small window of time, in the midst of a sea of trouble for the Turkish principalities, it does serve the interests of our survey and is a welcome addition to Turkoman Figural Bronze Coins and Their Iconography.



Fig. 2 = S/S 2.5 (obverse)

In 1995, another variant to S/S 2 of Fakhr al-Din Artuq Arslan (Fig. 2) was reported in a private American collection<sup>6</sup>. The main variations of this undated coin type from Amid are distinguished by the letters in the upper left and right fields of the obverse, flanking the nimbate head of a seated figure<sup>7</sup>. In one case (S/S 2.1) they represent the equivalent of numerals 1 through 9 in the Amjad system. In S/S 2.2 they represent all ten Arabic numerals including zero. In S/S 2.3 the previous types appear with the addition of a countermark. In S/S 2.4 the countermark is engraved into the die rather than punched into the flan. This new specimen, which bears the S/S designation 2.5, does not bear letters at all in the upper left and right fields, but rather a star on either side of the nimbus. The reverse is unchanged. Although the latest variant to be recorded, we might presume that this device precedes the numeral variants and did not circulate for very long before the more common variants were issued.

<sup>3</sup> Cahen, Claude. *Pre-Ottoman Turkey*, Taplinger, New York, 1968, p. 133f.

<sup>4</sup> Kafesoglu, Ibrahim. *A History of the Seljuks*. Tr. Gary Leiser, Southern Illinois University Press, 1988, pp. 76-77.

<sup>5</sup> Köprülü, Mehmed Fuad. *The Seljuks of Anatolia, Their History and Culture According to Local Muslim Sources*, Tr. Gary Leiser, Univ. of Utah Press, 1992, p. 72, n. 35.

<sup>6</sup> Rev. James Theselius Collection.

<sup>7</sup> The obverse imitates a Class D folles of Constantine IX Monomachos (AD 1042-1055) which circulated extensively in the region prior to and during the Artuqid reign.



Fig. 3 = S/S 25 variant with star before bust in obverse field

S/S type 25 issued by Husam al-Din Timurtash (AH 516-547) bears a bearded male generally believed to imitate a portrait coin of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD emperor Julian II. Only two dates are known, 542 and 543. A coin of this type, but with the addition of a star in the obverse field (Fig. 3) adds an important variant and ties this issues into the long running series of figural bronzes associated with astrology and astronomical events. A separate S/S # has not been assigned to this variation.



Fig. 4 = S/S 79 two line legend on eagle's breast

The double-headed eagle fals (Fig. 4) struck in Sinjar by 'Imad al-Din Zengi (S/S 79) is typically found with a three line legend on the breast of the eagle. The known dates on this coin range from 581 to 592, lacking years 589-591. One specimen in a private collection in the United States bears only a two line legend, omitting the name of al-Nasir<sup>8</sup>. One might presume that this issue (date is unfortunately off the flan) belongs to the period of turmoil surrounding the death of Saladin in 589.

To the previously known dates cited for various S/S types, we can add the following dates confirmed by coins that have appeared in the collector market during the past decade.

S/S 48 year 636 = S/S 48.25  
S/S 60 year 573 = S/S 60.85  
S/S 63 year 584 = S/S 63.05  
S/S 79 year 585 = S/S 79.45  
S/S 81 year 597 = S/S 81.15

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<sup>8</sup> Rev. James Theselius Collection.