

A coin of Coropassus in Lycaonia

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Coin No. 1 has already been attributed to Egypt⁷. The two eagles on the reverse are regarded as sign of a joint rule of Antiochus and Philometor¹. This interpretation seems to be intelligible as Philometor has issued coins with a similar reverse for an apparent joint rule with his brother Euergetes (Svoronos No. 1423-28 and 1430). In this case coin No. 1 must have been issued in 170/169 during the brief joint rule of Antiochus and Philometor, before the reconciliation of the latter with his brother Euergetes.

Coin No. 2 has only one eagle on the reverse, a possible indication of an undivided rule. It would be intelligible to attribute it to the period concomitant with the investiture of Antiochus as Pharaoh in 168 B.C.

Thus, the different designs on the reverse of the two coins seem to corroborate the historical events, that is first a joint rule of Antiochus and then undivided sovereignty. At which place were these coins minted? As Alexandria and thus the principal mint of Egypt was never in the possession of the Seleucid one has to look for a different city. During the brief joint rule of Antiochus and Philometor Memphis, the ancient metropolis of Egypt, was again seat of the government. Thus, the coins of Antiochus for Egypt were most likely minted at Memphis. Both coins are extremely rare. Either their output was very small or all available coins were melted down to exterminate any reminiscence of the «Syrian tyrant» Antiochus, comparable to the «damnatio memoriae» practiced in Roman times.

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A COIN OF COROPASSUS IN LYCAONIA

Hyla A. Troxell

Greek Imperial coins from Coropissus in Cilicia Tracheia have long been known. They were struck between Hadrian and Valerian, and are inscribed ΚΟΡΟΠΙΣΣΕΩΝ or ΚΟΡΟΠΕΙΣΣΕΩΝ, with, where space permits, the addition of ΤΗC ΚΗΤΙC (or ΚΙΗΤΙC) ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩC¹.

A similarly-named town, Coropassus in Lycaonia, has been known only from Strabo, who places it in the northeast of Lycaonia, on the major road from Ephesus to eastern Anatolia, 120 stades or 21¼ km west of Cappadocian Garsaura, modern Aksaray².

This article publishes the second bit of evidence for Coropassus, a coin. The piece was advertised quite correctly in 1940 by a Swiss dealer as being from the Lycaonian city, and was so understood by the purchaser, Edward T. Newell of the American Numismatic Society³. Unfortunately, at some unknown subsequent date the coin was placed in the Society's trays under Cilician Coropissus, where it was recognized only

¹ BMC Lycaonia etc., pp. lvi-lvii and 65; and W. H. Waddington, Numismatique de l'Isaurie et de la Lycaonie, RN 1883, pp. 31-36. The E's and Σ's are always lunate; the Ω often has the form W.

² Strabo XII. 6.1; XIV. 2.29. I have arbitrarily used Strabo's familiar spelling Coropassus, rather than the Coropessus which the coin indicates. Either is surely the same word as the Cilician Coropissus.

³ Münzhandlung Basel, Fixed Price List 29, March 1940, 46.

in 1986. It is a source of great regret that the piece was thus not made known to the late generous scholar Hans von Aulock when he was preparing his *Münzen und Städte Lykaoniens*⁴, which makes no mention of Coropassus.

The coin in question was struck under Maximinus I (235–238 A.D.):

Obv. AYT[JOYH (to l.) MAΞIMEINOC (to r.). Laureate bust of Maximinus r.

Rev. KOINON (to l.) ΛΥΚΑΟΝ (above) ΚΟΡΟΦΗC (to r.) CEΩΝ (below). Two standing female figures holding scepters (or possibly lances or torches), flanking a third male (?) figure seated l. on a backless (?) throne. The central figure's l. hand appears to rest on the throne seat; the r. hand, extended, presumably held some object, which can not be identified. AE ↓ 15.72 g.



1 ×



2 ×



⁴ *Istanbuler Mitteilungen Beiheft 16* (Tübingen, 1976).

Even aside from the spelling of the ethnic, the coin's inscription clearly distinguishes it from the coins of Cilician Coropissus, and decisively places Coropassus in Lycaonia, as a member of the Lycaonian League. The piece is of interest not only as the first known of Coropassus, and a pleasing confirmation of Strabo. It adds a new city to the Lycaonian League, whose six members known hitherto were Barata, Dalisandos, Derbe, Hyde, Ilistra and Laranda. The sites of Derbe, Ilistra and Laranda are known, in the far southern portion of the great Lycaonian plain, and the northernmost of any suggested possible sites for the other three is only near the center of the plain. Coropassus, on the contrary, was near the northeastern corner of the plain, the most isolated of any of the Lycaonian mints, whether they struck as League members or independently⁵.

Further, coinage under Maximinus is not known elsewhere in Lycaonia⁶. After the cessation of second-century A.D. emissions, coinage resumed elsewhere in Lycaonia only at Iconium under Gordian III, 238-244, and at four of the League cities under Philips I and II, 244-249. Our coin of Coropassus under Maximinus is thus the earliest of the third-century revival.

The present author has found no parallels to our coin's rather handsome reverse type⁷, which presumably then held some unidentifiable local significance. Interestingly, however, the most similar obverse die located is that of a coin of Ephesus⁸. Konrad Kraft has shown how remarkably common die-links between even widely separated cities are in the Greek Imperial coinage⁹. Strabo describes Coropassus as a mere village, a κώμη, but on the highway «used by everyone traveling from Ephesus to the East¹⁰». It would not be surprising if our insignificant town of Coropassus had commissioned dies from the major center of Ephesus for its only known issue of coins.

⁵ See the work cited in the previous note, and its geographical appendix by David French, pp. 91-95. Dr. French now writes me that he favors a location for Coropassus in northwestern Lycaonia, which does not accord with Strabo's two explicit notices. What Dr. French's reasons are I do not know, but the opinion of the director of the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara is not to be taken lightly.

⁶ Waddington Coll., 4780-81, attributed to Lycaonian Laodiceia under Maximinus, were mis-read (see BMC Lycaonia etc., p. xxii, note 5), but have unfortunately made their way onto no. 8 of the admirable Prägetabellen in P. R. Franke, W. Leschhorn, and A. U. Stylow, *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum Deutschland. Sammlung v. Aulock Index* (Berlin, 1981).

⁷ At least in the BMC's plates, SNG v. Aulock, SNG Copenhagen, and a number of smaller published collections.

⁸ SNG v. Aulock 1912. The E's are not lunate, but they are on many other contemporary coins from Ephesus.

⁹ Konrad Kraft, *Das System der kaiserzeitlichen Münzprägung in Kleinasien*, *Istanbulischer Forschungen* 29 (Berlin, 1972).

¹⁰ Strabo XIV. 2.29.