

X.

A SMALL FIND OF COINS OF MENDE, &c.

(See Plate XVI.)

At the end of March, 1897, I acquired, at a shop in the Rue Pera at Constantinople, a small lot of coins, which had been bought, on the preceding day, from a workman who had returned from Macedon shortly before. He and another workman, I was told, had found a small hoard, which they divided, near Nea Cassandra. The companion who had the other portion would not sell them, and as the people of the shop did not know his whereabouts, I could not buy them of him. It may, however, be presumed, I think, that his share contained similar coins to those I am going to describe.

1. Mende. \mathcal{R} . 2. Wt. 42 grs. [Pl. XVI. 1.]

Obv.— \mathcal{M} \mathcal{N} . Ithyphallic ass standing r.; vinebranch above.

Rev.—Incuse square, consisting of four raised, four depressed, triangular spaces of unequal size.

Dr. Imhoof-Blumer possesses a tetradrachm of similar types.

2. Mende. \mathcal{R} . 1. Wt. 6.6 grs. [Pl. XVI. 2.]

Obv.—Head and neck of braying ass l.; a pellet at the lower end of the neck. Border of dots.

The reverse would probably have been similar to that of No. 1, but only one of the deep portions of the incuse is visible.

3. Mende. *R.* 1. Wt. 6·0 grs. [Pl. XVI. 3.]
Obv.—Head and neck of braying ass l.; large pellet on lower part of neck.
Rev.—Incuse square divided diagonally by two broad bands of unequal thickness.
4. Mende. *R.* $\frac{3}{4}$. Wt. 3·0 grs. [Pl. XVI. 4.]
Obv.—Head and neck of braying ass r., with a pellet on lower part of neck.
Rev.—Incuse square diagonally divided.
5. Mende. *R.* $\frac{1}{2}$. Wt. 4·5 grs. [Pl. XVI. 5.]
 (Rather globular fabrique.)
Obv.—Head and neck of braying ass r.; a pellet on the lower part of the neck.
Rev.—Incuse square divided by broad bands into four squares.
6. Mende. *R.* $\frac{1}{2}$. Wt. 6·5 grs. [Pl. XVI. 6.]
 (Rather globular.)
Obv.—Head and neck of ass l. The neck and the eyes are prominent, like large pellets.
Rev.—Incuse square diagonally divided.
7. Mende. *R.* 2. Wt. 37·4 grs. [Pl. XVI. 7.]
Obv.—Ithyphallic ass standing r.; vine tendril above. Border of dots.
Rev.—Deep incuse square diagonally divided.
8. Mende. *R.* $2\frac{1}{2}$. Wt. 39·0 grs. [Pl. XVI. 8.]
Obv.—**MEN**. Ass standing r. Border of dots.
Rev.—Incuse square diagonally divided.

9. Mende. \mathcal{R} . 1. Wt. 3·2 grs. [Pl. XVI. 9.]*Obv.*—Ass standing r.*Rev.*—Crow standing l. in flat incuse square.

A coin with similar types, with crow r., has been published by Mr. Wroth in his description of acquisitions of the British Museum in 1892, *Num. Chron.* 1893, 2 [I. 2], but the weight of the Museum coin is 10·4 (obol), while the coin here described is only 3·2, which may be regarded a tetartemorion or trihemitetartemorion.

10. Mende. \mathcal{R} . 2½. Wt. 31·2 grs. [Pl. XVI. 10.]

Obv.—Silenos naked r., standing behind an ass r., with his hand at the ears, as if pulling him back.
Border of dots.

Rev.—**ΜΕΝΔΑΙΟΝ**. Crow standing r.; traces of flat incuse square.

This coin resembles that of *Cat. Brit. Mus.*, p. 82, No. 5, but the latter is heavier (37·2), although a piece of the margin is broken off. A coin with similar types has also been published by Imhoof-Blumer in *Mon. Gr.*, p. 83, No. 86.

11. Mende. \mathcal{R} . 1. Wt. 11·2 grs. [Pl. XVI. 11.]*Obv.*—Ass standing r. Border of dots.*Rev.*—Lion's or panther's scalp in incuse square.

The types are the same as on the coin of the British Museum, published by Mr. Wroth in *Num. Chron.*, 1892, p. 6, 13 [I. 13], but the weight of the Museum coin is only 6·8. If the latter is to be regarded as a half-obol, it is very heavy, and would give an obolos of 13·6.

12. Mende. *Æ.* 1. Wt. 6·0 grs. [Pl. XVI. 12.]

Obv.—Head and neck of ass l., with pellet-like knobs.

Rev.—Forepart of ass l.; the hair on the shoulder appears to be represented by globules; all in roundish incuse.

This coin seems to have been carelessly designed. On the obverse the neck is excessively narrow; on the reverse the neck is so short and thick, and the head and shoulders are so large, that one would be inclined to regard the type as the forepart of a bull, were it not for the long ears and the absence of the horns.

13. Mende. *Æ.* 1½. Wt. 28·0 grs. [Pl. XVI. 13.]

Obv.—Head of beardless Dionysos l., wreathed with ivy; hair hanging over temples and forehead; large nose; sulky expression of face.

Rev.—**MIN.** Amphora; symbol in l. field indistinct, probably branch of vine or ivy.

The head on the obverse is very different from the beautiful, rather female-looking, head on the silver coin published by Imhoof-Blumer in *Mon. Gr.*, p. 83, No. 88 (C. 21). The coin differs also from the copper coins in the Berlin Museum (*Beschreib. d. antiken Münzen*, vol. ii., p. 100, 6 and 7), and those published by Imhoof-Blumer in *Mon. Gr.*, p. 83, Nos. 89, 90, and 91.

14. Potidea. *Æ.* ½. Wt. 5·5 grs. [Pl. XVI. 14.]

Obv.—Free horse standing r.

Rev.—Archaic female head l., wearing necklace and spiked headdress covered with dots; ears not visible; the whole in incuse square.

15. Potidea. *R.* $\frac{1}{4}$. Wt. 7·5 grs. [Pl. XVI. 15.]

Obv.—Free horse standing r.

Rev.—Similar head as 14, but r.

No. 14 seems to be a hemiobol, and 15 a trihemiobol.

16. Scione. *R.* $\frac{1}{4}$. Wt. 6·1 grs. [Pl. XVI. 16.]
(Oxydised.)

Obv.—Beardless head, bound with taenia r. (Hermes).

Rev.—Crestless Corinthian helmet r., in incuse square.

This coin seems to be the hemiobol of the tetrobola described in the *Catalogue of Brit. Mus., Macedon*, p. 102, 1, and of the Berlin Museum, p. 124, 1.

17. Uncertain Macedonian coin, probably of an early king.
R. $\frac{1}{4}$. Wt. 5·1 grs. [Pl. XVI. 17.]

Obv.—Young male head r., wearing kausia in a round incuse.

Rev.—Shallow incuse square divided into four equal squares, each of which contains another square with various ornamentations.

The Catalogue of the British Museum contains, under Alexander I. of Macedon (p. 158, No. 15), a small coin (8·2 grs.) with similar obverse, but rather different reverse; but Imhoof-Blumer describes a coin similar on both sides, though rather heavier, in *Mon. Gr.*, p. 110, 188, among the uncertain Thraco-Macedonian coins.

18. Uncertain, probably Macedonian, coin.
R. $\frac{1}{4}$. Wt. 5·6 grs. [Pl. XVI. 18.]

Obv.—Forepart of bull, or cow, l.

Rev.—Quadripartite incuse square.

It is not absolutely certain whether this coin belongs to the find, or whether it was accidentally introduced.

Some of the coins seem to be new varieties, as Nos. 1, 4, 8, 12; and the copper, No. 13, differs likewise from those I have seen. Nos. 1 to 12 can scarcely be later than the middle of the fifth century B.C., and the same is the case with Nos. 14 to 17. As the copper coin No. 13 has been found together with these coins, I am inclined to think that it dates likewise from the middle of the fifth century or very little later. It has been suggested to me that the legend MIN points to an early date, and thus would strengthen this view; but Mr. B. V. Head thinks that MIN and MEN were used at the same period, and some of the coins in my collection are in favour of his view. I will here mention four of them.

19. Mende. *Æ*. 7½. Wt. 264 grs.

Obv.—Ithyphallic ass standing r. Border of dots. Legend rather indistinct. **MINΔAI** (retrograde).

Rev.—Eight triangular spaces, four depressed, alternating with four raised ones.

20. Mende. *Æ*. 8. Wt. 260 grs.

Obv.—**MI N**. Ithyphallic ass braying standing r.; on back, crow, *ab ano pascens*; above, branch of vine with a bunch of grapes.

Rev.—Incuse square divided diagonally, by broad bands, into four triangular spaces.

21. Mende. *Æ*. 7½. Wt. 259·8 grs.

Obv.—Silenos, wearing long hair and beard, seated l. sideways on back of ass, standing r.; upper part of body undraped, excepting left forearm. He holds cantharus in extended right arm. In

front of ass a vine, on which a crow is seated to r. Border of dots.

Rev.—**MENΔAION** around a linear square, which contains a vine with five bunches of grapes. The whole in a shallow incuse square.

This coin is, as far as I know, a new variety of those in the British Museum (*Cat. B. M.*, p. 81, 4), and in the Berlin Museum (*Beschreib. d. antiken Münzen*, vol. ii., p. 100, 3).

22. Mende. *Æ.* 2. Wt. 19·1 grs.

Obv.—Ass standing r. Border of dots.

Rev.—**MIN.** Amphora, ivy branch in l. field.

The style of the types on this coin appears to me not later than that on No. 10, which has the letter **E**. This coin (No. 21) has been published in the *Num. Chron.*, 1896, p. 15, 27; it is here redescribed for the sake of comparison only.

A peculiarity observable on the small coins of Mende, with the head and neck of an ass on the obverse, is, that on the very archaic specimens there is always a pellet on the lower part of the neck, which reminds one of the pellets on the archaic coins of Lete, and of some as yet unattributed coins of Thracio-Macedonian origin (Imhoof-Blumer, *Mon. Gr.*, pp. 90 *et seq.*); for instance, those with the cow and calf and those with the Pegasus. On the somewhat later coins of Mende the pellet seems to be absent; for instance, in

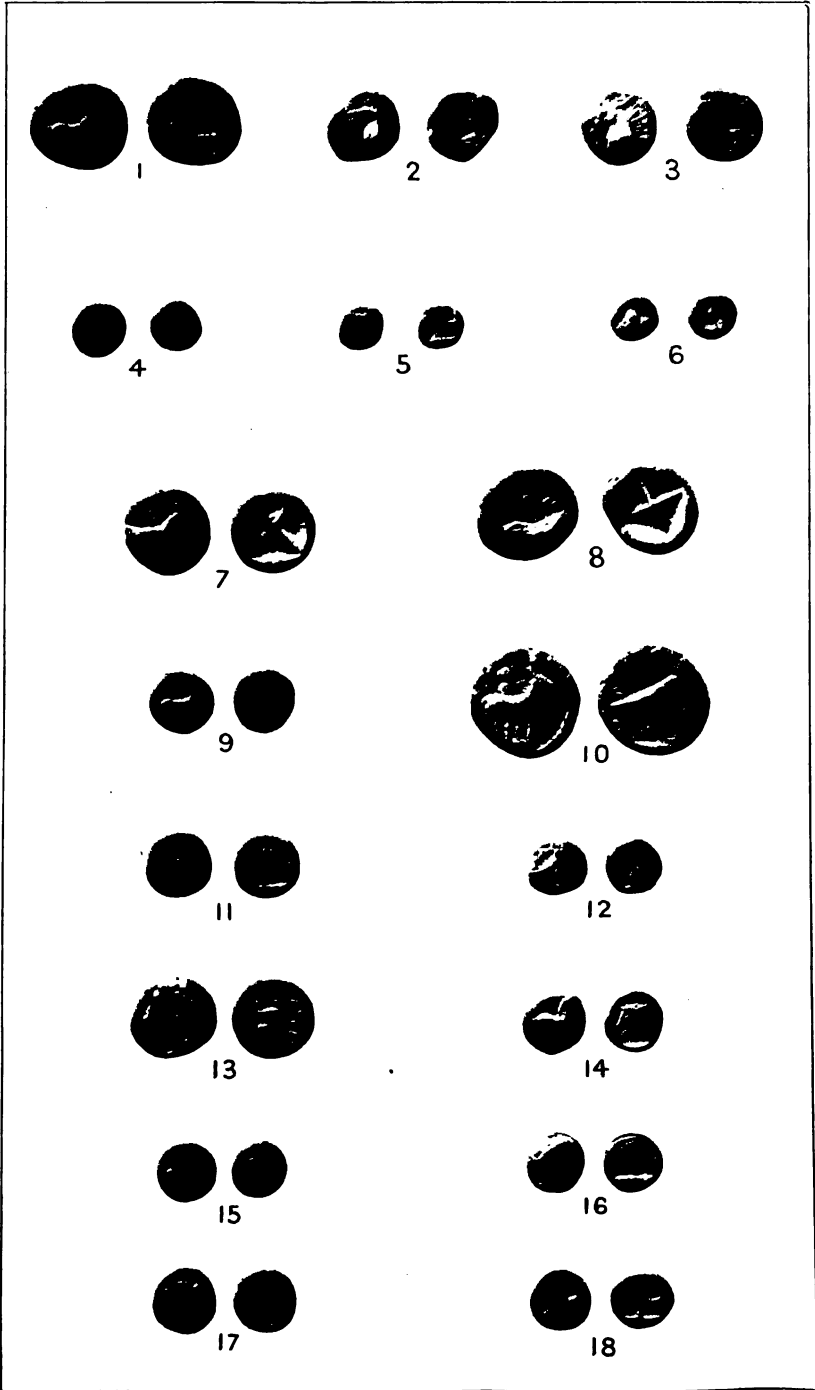
23. Mende. *Æ.* $\frac{1}{4}$. Wt. 2·6 grs.

Obv.—Head and neck of ass r.

Rev.—Cantharus in incuse square.

This coin is a variety of the one published by Mr. Wroth in *Num. Chron.*, 1893, p. 2, No. 4. The British Museum coin has the head to the left, and weighs only 2·1 grs. It may have lost 0·5 gr. by wear; but the mint of Mende seems to have been not very careful with regard to the weight of its small divisions. If we take the tetradrachm at about 264 grs., and the drachm at about 65, the obol would be about 10·5 to 11, the hemiobol 5·3 to 5·5, the tetartemorion about 2·7 grs. If we take the coin published here as No. 1 with 42 grs. as a tetrobolon, we must probably regard No. 8 with 39 grs. and No. 7 with 37·4, as belonging to the same denomination. As the loss by wear seems not to have been great, we must regard that the original coins were not of equal weight. No. 7 would be too heavy for a hemidrachm. No. 5, with only 4·5 grs., is probably intended for a hemiobol, and No. 6, with 6·5, is probably the same; but the difference is very great. An allusion to this apparent want of exactness has been already made in the remarks on No. 11.

HERMANN WEBER.



AUTOTYPE.