

**A GROUP OF ANONYMOUS FOLLES FROM KUVA-YI MİLLİYE  
MUSEUM, BALIKESİR/TURKEY**

Ceren ÜNAL\*

**Özet**

Anonim Folles grubu sikkelerin ön yüzlerinde İsa tasviri bulunur ve üzerlerinde belirli bir tarih ve hangi imparatora atfen basıldıklarına dair herhangi bir lejand bulunmamaktadır. Bu yüzden 970-1092 yılları arasında basılan bakır sikkeler Anonim Folles olarak adlandırılmaktadır. Anonim Folles grubu bakır sikkeler ölçüleri ve üzerlerinde taşıdıkları tasvirlerle göre on beş sınıfa ayrılmıştır. Balıkesir, Kuva-yi Millîye Müzesi farklı sınıflarda Anonim Folles sikkelerini sikke seksiyonunda korumaktadır. Kuva-yi Millîye Müzesinde çalışılan Anonim Folles grubu sikkeler Sınıf A2, B, C, E, F, G ve I dahildirler. Bu çalışmanın temel amacı ise Kuva-yi Millîye Müzesi'nde yer alan 48 adet Anonim Folles'in tanıtılmasıdır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Bizans, Sikke, Bakır, Anonim , Kuva-yi Millîye Müzesi, Balıkesir.

**Abstract**

The Anonymous Folles have depictions of Christ on their obverse and all of them were not struck in the name of any particular emperor. The Anonymous Folles haven't got any title of emperor and depiction. That's why, the copper coins of these which were struck between the 970 to 1092 were called the Anonymous Folles according to their types. They are grouped into fifteen classes according to their size and depictions. Kuva-yi Millîye Museum, Balıkesir/Turkey have a group of Anonymous Folles which are from different Classes. Anonymous Folles are researched which are belong to Class A2, B, C, E, F, G, I. The aim of this paper is to introduce the group of 48 Anonymous Folles from Kuva-yi Millîye Museum, Balıkesir/Turkey.

**Key Words:** Byzantine, Coin, Copper, Anonymous , Kuva-yi Millîye Museum, Balıkesir.

---

\* Dr. Ceren ÜNAL, Celal Bayar University, Faculty of Science and Letters, Department of History of Art, Muradiye Campus/MANİSA.

The Anonymous Folles were struck the years between 970 to 1092 and at that time 16 rulers were on the throne. Ioannes I. Tzimiskes made a much more evident change in the copper in the 970's. He replaced the figure of the emperor on the follis by a bust of Christ and the emperor's name and titles by a religious inscription. These Anonymous Folles were not attributed to the reigns of particular emperors with certainty. The different types of Anonymous Folles can be arranged in chronological order and roughly dated on the evidence of overstrikes. Folles in the names of individual emperors were reintroduced in the 1060's, under Constantine X. Both signed and anonymous coins were being struck concurrently (Grierson 1990, 10).

Three important numismatists; Mr. W. Wroth, Mr. A. Bellinger and Miss Thompson studied the Anonymous Bronze coins. Each of these coins were classified according to their depictions which are on their obverse and the reverse between the end of the 19th century and in the beginning of the 20th century (Bellinger 1928, 10-13.; Sabatier 1955, 138-214.; Wroth 1966, 435-539). Later on, Mr. Grierson distinguished and classified the group of Anonymous Folles in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection in 1973 and he classified the Anonymous types in 15 Classes and used the Miss Thompson's letter system to identify them.<sup>1</sup> Miss Thompson's alphabetical classification of the chronological sequence of types has been adopted in Byzantine coin catalogues (Sear 2006, 375). This study is still great and available today.

These 15 classes are classified according to their types and the sequence of their struck. All of them are identified by letters; from A to N. Class A is also divided into two parts according to their modules which are small, called Class A1 and large, called Class A2. All of them follow the chronological order and some of them overstruck on earlier ones.

The Anonymous Folles have lots of examples in Turkish Museums and coin finds of excavations in Anatolia. The Museum of Kuva-yi Milliye has approximately 2.500 coins from different cultures and ages.<sup>2</sup> After summer research in August 2011, 48 samples of Classes A2, B, C, E, F, G and I from Kuva-yi Milliye Museum are classified and presented.<sup>3</sup>

### **CLASS A2:**

Class A2 are classified according to its ornaments on nimbus, book and field. 25 samples and 8 different variations of Class A2 are presented .


---

<sup>1</sup> Miss Margaret Thompson classified the anonymous types which found in the Agora excavations at Athens.

<sup>2</sup> The city of Balıkesir is located in the North-western part of Turkey and the Museum of Kuva-yi Milliye was established in 1996.

<sup>3</sup> This paper was presented visually in 22nd International Congress of Byzantine Studies: Byzantium Without Borders in Sophia, 22-27 August 2011/ Sessions of Free Communications.

**Variation 3 (976(?)-1030/35)**

**Obverse:** + ΕΜΜΑ ΝΟΒΗΑ, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic<sup>4</sup> and himation<sup>5</sup>, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with  from beneath, in field IC XC.

**Reverse:** Bears the four-lined inscription with pellet beneath

+ΙΗΣΥΣ

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ


ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

**Ref.: DOC III/2, 651-52, A2.3.1-13.**

**1. Æ, Pl. I, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 405.**

**Variation 5 (976(?)-1030/35):**

**Obverse:** + ΕΜΜΑ ΝΟΒΗΑ, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with  from beneath, in field IC XC.

**Reverse:** bears the four-lined inscription with pellet above and beneath, upper pellet is very faint.

+ΙΗΣΥΣ

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

**Ref.: DOC III/2, 652, A2.5.1-5.2.**

**2. Æ, Pl. I, dia. 34 mm, Inventory No. 396.**


**3. Æ, Pl. I, dia. 32 mm, Inventory No. 401.**


**4. Æ, Pl. I, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 398.**

<sup>4</sup> Wool, linen or cotton tunics (*χιτών*), short or long, short-sleeved or long-sleeved, were the basic garment of most citizens of the empire (ODB 1991, 2127-2128).

<sup>5</sup> Himation (*ἱμάτιον*); a mantle, the Greek equivalent of the Roman pallium. This oblong outer garment of wool or linen was worn over the tunic. All of Byzantine representations of figures such as Christ, the apostles and prophets represented with himation (ODB 1991, 932).

**Variation 8 (976(?)-1030/35)**

**Obverse:** + ΕΜΜΑ ΝΟΒΗΛ, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with  from beneath, in field IC XC.

**Reverse:** bears the four-lined inscription with four pellet in cross  form above and beneath.

+IhSϞS

XRISϞS

bASILEϞ


bASILE


Ref.: DOC III, 653, A2.8.

5. Æ, Pl. I, dia. 32 mm, Inventory No. 1.

6. Æ, Pl. II, dia. 31 cm, Inventory No. 397.

**Variation 24 (976(?)-1030/35)**

**Obverse:** + ΕΜΜΑ ΝΟΒΗΛ, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with  from beneath, in field IC XC.

**Reverse:** bears the four-lined inscription with  above and beneath.

+IhSϞS

XRISϞS

bASILEϞ

bASILE

Ref.: DOC III/2, 659-660, A2.24.1-28.

7. Æ, Pl. II, Inventory No. 2897.


8. Æ, Pl. II, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 1654.


9. Æ, Pl. II, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 404.

10. Æ, Pl. II, dia. 24 mm, Inventory No. 8.

**Variation 32 (976(?)-1030/35)**

**Obverse:** + ΕΜΜΑ ΝΟΒΗΛ, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right

hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with  from beneath, in field IC XC.

**Reverse:** bears the four-lined inscription with cross ornament  above and beneath.

+HhS $\Psi$ S

XRIS $\Psi$ S

bASILE $\Psi$


bASILE



**Ref.:** DOC III/2, 663-664, A2.32.1-11.

11. Æ, Pl. III, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 399.

12. Æ, Pl. III, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 1853.

#### Variation 39 (976(?)-1030/35)

**Obverse:** +  $\epsilon$ MMANOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with  from beneath, in field IC XC.

**Reverse:** bears the four-lined inscription with  above and  beneath.

+HhS $\Psi$ S

XRIS $\Psi$ S

bASILE $\Psi$

bASILE

**Ref.:** DOC III/2, 665-666, A2.39.1-6.


13. Æ, Pl. III, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 400.


14. Æ, Pl. III, dia. 30 mm, Inventory No. 2.

15. Æ, Pl. III, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 31.

16. Æ, Pl. IV, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 403.

#### Variation 42a (976(?)-1030/35)

**Obverse:** +  $\epsilon$ MMANOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with  from beneath, in field IC XC.

**Reverse:** bears the four-lined inscription with  above and beneath.

+HhS $\Psi$ S

XRIS $\Psi$ S

bASILE $\Psi$


bASILE


**Ref. :** DOC III/2, 670, A2.42a.

**17. Æ, Pl. IV, dia. 30 mm, Inventory No. 1733.**

**18. Æ, Pl. IV, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 1729.**

#### **Variation 47 (976(?)-1030/35)**

**Obverse:** +  $\epsilon$ MMA NOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with  from beneath, in field IC XC.

**Reverse:** bears the four-lined inscription with  above and beneath.

+HhS $\Psi$ S

XRIS $\Psi$ S

bASILE $\Psi$

bASILE

**Ref.:** DOC III/2, 671-672, A2.47.1-23.

**19. Æ, Pl. IV, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 1734.**

**20. Æ, Pl. IV, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 1789.**

**21. Æ, Pl. V, Inventory No. 2734.**

#### **Unattributed Folles ( 976(?)-1042 (?))**

**Obverse:**+  $\epsilon$ MMA NOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with (?) from beneath, in field IC XC.

**Reverse:** bears the four-lined inscription with square shaped ornament (?) above and beneath.

+HhS $\Psi$ S

XRIS $\Psi$ S

**bASILEY**

**bASILE**

**Ref.: DOC III/2, 648-675.**


**22. Æ, Pl. V, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 32.**

**23. Æ, Pl. V, dia. 24 mm, Inventory No. 9.**

**24. Æ, Pl. V, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 402**

**25. Æ, Pl. V, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 30. (Variation 42a?)**

**CLASS B (1030/35-1042):**

**Obverse:** + **EMMA NOVHA**, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with cross nimbus having  in each arm and pellet in each upper quarter, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left holds book, with



on cover from beneath.

**Reverse:** Bears the cross on base and two steps, pellet each end of upper arms.

**IS XS**

**bAS ILE**

**bAS ILE**

**Ref.: DOC III/2, 676-681, B.1-64.**

**26. Æ, Pl. VI, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 411.**

**27. Æ, Pl. VI, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 1852.**

**28. Æ, Pl. VI, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 1201.**

**29. Æ, Pl. VI, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 1732.**


**30. Æ, Pl. VI, dia. 23 mm, Inventory No. 1555.**

**CLASS C (1042 (?)-1050):**

**Obverse:** + **EMMA NOVHA**, bears three-quarter-length figure of Christ Antiphonetes<sup>6</sup> facing, bearded, with cross nimbus having pellet in each arm, wearing

---

<sup>6</sup> An icon of Christ Antiphonetes (*ἀντιφωνητής* / guarantor), at the Church of the Khalkoprateia, famous for its miracles and the image is that of a standing, three-quarter length Christ, arms held close to his sides, with the palm of his right hand held up so as to face the viewer. An icon

tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in front of body, left hand holds book with  on cover.

**Reverse:** bears in angles of jeweled cross with pellet at end of each arm.

IC XC

NI KA

**Ref.: DOC III/2, 681-684, C.1-48.**


31. Æ, Pl. VII, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 410.



32. Æ, Pl. VII, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 409.

33. Æ, Pl. VII, dia. 25 mm, Inventory No. 1463.

34. Æ, Pl. VII, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 10

**CLASS E (1060):**

**Obverse:** No inscription, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded with cross nimbus having one pellet in upright arm and two in each lateral arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with on  cover, from beneath. In field IC XC.

**Reverse:** bears the three-lined inscription and ornaments  on above and  beneath.



IS XS

bAS ILC

bAS ILC



**Ref.: DOC III/2, 688-89, E.1-8.**

35. Æ, Pl. VII, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 25.

36. Æ, Pl. VIII, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 2855.

37. Æ, Pl. VIII, dia. 26 mm, Inventory No. 29.

38. Æ, Pl. VIII, dia. 26 mm, Inventory No. 28.

---

of Christ Antiphonetes appears on Zoe's coins and on other coins of the 11th century (ODB 1991, 439).



**CLASS F (1060-1065):**

**Obverse:** No inscription, bears seated on backless throne figure of Christ Hyperagathos facing, bearded with cross nimbus having pellet in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised to side in blessing, left hand holds book with  
••• on cover by spine on knee, in field **IC XC**.

**Reverse:** bears the three-lined inscription and cross ornament — + — on above and + beneath.

— + —  
IS XS

bAS IΛC

bAS IΛC

+

**Ref.: DOC III/2, 690-91, F.1-15.**

**39. Æ, Pl. VIII, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 1730.**

**CLASS G (1065-1070):**

**Obverse:** No inscription, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with cross nimbus, wearing tunic and himation, right hand blessing inwards in sling of cloak, left hand holds scroll, in field, **IC XC**. Border of large pellets

**Reverse:** No inscription, bears the bust of the Virgin Blakhernitissa<sup>7</sup>, facing, nimbate, orans, wearing tunic and maphorion<sup>8</sup>, in field **MP ΘV**. Border of large pellets (DOC 1993, 692-94, Pl. LXI, G.1.-28).

**Ref.: DOC III/2, 692-694, G.1-28.**

**40. Æ, Pl. VIII, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 27.**

**41. Æ, Pl. IX, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 1653.**

---

<sup>7</sup> Several different icons of the Virgin Blakhernitissa (*Βλαχερνίτισσα*, *Βλαχερνιώτισσα*) are known to have existed in the monastery of Blakhernai. Coins and seals of the 11th century identify an orans figure of the Virgin hand outstretched, as the Blakhernitissa (ODB 1991, 2170).

<sup>8</sup> Maphorion (*μαφόριον*); a garment covering the head and shoulders, mentioned in papyri of the 4th-6th century. The Virgin's maphorion or veil usually blue, Brown or purple may be decorated with gold dots or pellets in the form of a cross; the maphorion of Eve is generally red (ODB 1991, 1294).

**CLASS I (1075-1080):**

**Obverse:** No inscription, bears the bust of Christ facing, having long, slightly forked beard, cross nimbus with one pellet in each arm of cross, wearing tunic and himation, right hand blessing inwards in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with  
•••  
••• on cover, from beneath, in field, **IC XC**.

**Reverse:** No inscription, bears Latin cross with three pellets at each extremity, small cross at intersection and pellet with floral ornaments to left and right at base. Above, crescent to left and right.

**Ref.: DOC III/2, 696-99, I.1-64.**

**42. Æ, Pl. IX, dia. 25 mm, Inventory No. 407.**

**43. Æ, Pl. IX, dia. 26 mm, Inventory No. 408.**

**44. Æ, Pl. IX, dia. 25 mm, Inventory No. 406.**

**45. Æ, Pl. IX, dia. 26 mm, Inventory No. 2336.**

**46. Æ, Pl. X, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 1773.**

**47. Æ, Pl. X, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 1205.**

**48. Æ, Pl. X, dia. 26 mm, Inventory No. 1202.**

The Anonymous Folles have lots of samples in Museums and excavations in Turkey. However, there is a lack of research in Museum coin sections and a lack of information exchange of finds between excavations in Anatolia. In addition these, the most important problem is that there are few Byzantine numismatists studying in Turkey and Byzantine numismatic studies are at an early stage. Byzantine numismatic studies have to need more academic research in Universities and Museums and numismatic studies have to go together with the studies of Byzantine iconography to solve the problem about identification of coins.

**Plate I**

**CLASS A2**

**Variation 3**



**Variation 5**



**Variation 8**



5

**Plate II**



6

**Variation 24**



7



8



9



10

**Plate III**  
**Variation 32**



11



12

Variation 39



13



14



15

Plate IV



16



**Variation 42a**



17



18

**Variation 47**



19



20

Plate V



21

Unattributed Folles



22



23



24



25



**Plate VI**  
**CLASS B**



26



27



28



29



30

Plate VII  
CLASS C



31



32



33



34

**CLASS E**



35

**Plate VIII**



36



37



38

**CLASS F**



39

**CLASS G**



40

**Plate IX**



41

**CLASS I**



42



43



44



45

**Plate X**



46



47



48

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Atlan 1976** Atlan S., 1947-1967 Yılları Side Kazıları Sırasında Elde Edilen Sikkeler, Ankara.
- Bates 1971** Bates G. E., Archaeological Exploration of Sardis Byzantine Coins, Cambridge.
- Bateson-Campbell, 1998** Bateson J. D.-Campbell I. G., Byzantine and Early Medieval Western European Coins in the Hunter Coin Cabinet, University of Glasgow, London.
- Bellinger 1928** Bellinger, A. R. The Anonymous Byzantine Bronze Coinage, Numismatic Notes and Monographs No. 35, New York.
- Bordea 2004** Bordae G. P.-Ocheşeanu R.-Popeea A., Monnaies Byzantines Du Musée De Constanta (Roumanie), Wetteren.
- Goodacre 1971** Goodacre H., A Handbook of the Coinage of the Byzantine Empire, London.
- Grierson 1982** Grierson P., Byzantine Coins, California.
- Grierson 1990** Grierson P., Byzantine Coinage In Its International Setting, Cambridge.
- Grierson 1993** Grierson P., Catalogue of the Byzantine Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection and in the Whittemore Collection, Volume 3, Leo III to Nicephorus III 717-1081, Part 2 Basil I to Nicephorus III (867-1081), Washington D.C.
- Hackens 1984** Hackens T., Le Monnayage Byzantine. Emission-Usage-Message, Louvain-la-Neuve.
- Hendy 1985** Hendy M. F., Studies in the Byzantine Monetary Economy c. 300-1450, Cambridge.

- Hummel 1982** Hummel B. von- Specker L., *Katalog Der Byzantinischen Muenzen*, Historisches Museum St. Galen, St. Galen.
- Kent 1985** Kent J., *A Selection of Byzantine Coins in the Barber Institute of Fine Arts*, Birmingham.
- Lacam 1974** Lacam G., *Civilisation et Monnaies Byzantines*, Paris.
- Lhotka 1989** Lhotka J. F., *Introduction to East Roman (Byzantine Coinage)*, New York .
- Longuet 1961** Longuet H., *Introduction à la Numismatique Byzantine*, London.
- Malter 1968** Malter J. L., *Byzantine Numismatic Bibliography 1950-1965*, Chicago.
- Metcalf 1966** Metcalf D. M., *Coinage in the Balkans 820–1355*, Institute for Balkan Studies, Chicago.
- Mosser 1935** Mosser S., *A Bibliography of Byzantine Coin Hoards*, Numismatic Notes and Monographs, No. 67, *ANS*, New York.
- ODB 1991** Talbot A. M.- Kazdhan A. eds., *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium 3 Vols.* New York.
- Penna 2002** Penna V., *Byzantine Coinage*, Nicosia,.
- Ratto 1959** Ratto R., *Monnaies Byzantines*, Amsterdam.
- Raeder 1987** Raeder J., *Die Byzantinischen Münzen im Kestner-Museum Hannover*, Hannover.
- Sabatier 1955** Sabatier J., *Description générale des monnaies byzantines*, Austria.
- Sayles 1998** Sayles W. G., *Ancient Coin Collecting V, The Romaion/Byzantine Culture*, Ioala.
- Sear 2006** Sear D. R., *Byzantine Coins and Their Values*, second edition revised and enlarged, London.
- Ševčenko 1991** Ševčenko N. P., "Virgin Blachernitissa", *ODB*, Vol. 3, New York, 2170.

- Tolstoy 1991** Tolstoy I., *Byzantine Coins*, Barnaul.
- Whitting 1973** Whitting P. D., *Byzantine Coins*, New York.
- Wroth 1966** Wroth W., *Catalogue of the Imperial Byzantine Coins in the British Museum, 2 Vols.*, Chicago.
- Γαλάνη-Κρίκου 2002** Μίνα Γαλάνη-Κρίκου, *Σύνταγμα Βυζαντινών «Θησαυρών» του Νομισματικού Μουσείου (ΣΒΘ), ΑΘΗΝΑ.*