

THE 'INTER-ALLIED MEDAL OF VICTORY' (GREEK) FROM THE YOZGAT MUSEUM

Yozgat Müzesi'nden Bir Müttefikler Arası Zafer Madalyası

Barbara BACCHELLI*

ABSTRACT: The study originates from a medal found in the warehouses of the Yozgat Museum; this medal turned out to be the Greek example of the 'Inter-Allied Victory Medal' and was coined in 1922 in about 200,000 units. This exemplar is therefore part of a commemorative series in which all the allied forces, at the end of the First World War, decided to remember the victory against Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire with the issue of medals which, despite having elements in common, were distinguished on the basis of the country of origin. Army personnel who had been wounded or killed in action, died of their wounds, or who had served at least three months of active service at the front in Macedonia between 9 September 1916 and the truce of 7 September 1918, in the Russian campaign between the day of departure and the day of embarkation in Russia or Romania for the return to Greece, at the front in Thrace until July 17, 1920, were entitled to it. The medal was accompanied by a 'Certificate' with the name of the consignee.

Keywords: Medal, Inter-Allied Victory Medal, Commemorative Medal, World War I, Greece, Germany, Henry Nocq

ÖZ: Araştırma, Yozgat Müzesi depolarında bulunan bir madalyadan kaynaklanıyor; bu madalya, "Müttefikler arasında Zafer Madalyası"nın Yunan örneği oldu ve 1922'de yaklaşık 200.000 kopya halinde basıldı. Dolayısıyla bu örnek, Birinci Dünya Savaşı'nın sonunda tüm müttefik kuvvetlerin, ortak unsurlara sahip olmasına rağmen, madalya meselesiyle Almanya ve Avusturya-Macaristan İmparatorluğu'na karşı kazanılan zaferi hatırlamaya karar verdiği bir anma serisinin parçasıdır menşe ülke temelinde ayırt edildi. Bu madalya, operasyonda yaralanan veya öldürülen, yaralarından ölen veya 9 Eylül 1916 ile 7 Eylül 1918 ateşkesi arasında Makedonya cephesinde en az üç ay aktif hizmet veren ordu personeline yönelikti; Rusya veya Romanya'da Yunanistan'a dönüş için ayrılış günü ile gemiye biniş günü arasındaki Rus seferinde; Trakya cephesinde 17 Temmuz 1920'ye kadar. Madalyaya, alıcının isminin yazılı olduğu bir "Sertifika" eşlik etti.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Madalya, müttefikler arası zafer madalyası, hatıra madalyası, Birinci Dünya Savaşı, Yunanistan, Almanya, Henry Nocq

* Istituto Italiano di Numismatica, Roma, barbarabacchelli0@gmail.com, ORCID: 0000-0001-7467-5332.

Geliş Tarihi / Received: 10.05.2022

Kabul Tarihi / Accepted: 23.07.2022

Yayın Tarihi / Published: 30.01.2023

Introduction

Among the medals found in the warehouses of the Yozgat Museum¹, one exemplar has particularly attracted attention, not only for its good state of conservation, but also and above all for the story it represents and ‘tells us’: it is the so-called ‘Inter-Allied Medal of Victory’ (Fig. 1).

This type of medal was instituted by the Greek Government by Law on September 22, 1920, and the eligibility criteria and details were established by a Royal Decree of October 6, 1920 (Laslo 1992).²

The Greek exemplar is part of a Commemorative Series in which all the Allied Forces, at the end of the First World War (1915-1918), decided to remember the victory (Prister 2018, pp. 240 - 267; Laslo, 1992 (*supra*, n. 2)).³ The Marshal Ferdinand Foch, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, submitted, during the Peace Conference opened in Paris in 1919, the institution of a single inter-allied medal commemorating the victory, which was coined by each of the nations that fought during the conflict against the Austro-German Central Empires.⁴

In fact, as early as 1916, a British Committee had been charged with examining the question of war medals; in January 1917 Great Britain proposed to Belgium and France the creation, after the war, of a common medal. On March 5, 1918, during the hostilities, the French deputy Bouilloux-LaFont presented a Law proposal to the Chamber of Deputies to create an “International War Commemorative Medal”. After the armistice, on December 17, 1918, Deputy A. Lebey presented another Law proposal for the creation of a ‘Medal Commemorating the Victory of the Allies’.

In 1919 the Allied High Council therefore recommended the creation of an identical medal for all fighters of the Allied and Associated Nations. And again in 1919 the Special Commission, appointed by the Peace Assembly, resolved the minting of a medal for the Great War, which it called the “Victory Medal”, to be distributed according to the determinations of each

¹ I would like to thank prof. Hacer Sancaktar of Yozgat Bozok University who made available to me the material object of this study.

² Also see. *Μεγάλη Στρατιωτική και Ναυτική Εγκυκλοπαίδεια*, Αθήνα 1927-1930, Volume K-M, pp. 514-515; [https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medaglia_interalleata_della_vittoria_\(Grecia\)](https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medaglia_interalleata_della_vittoria_(Grecia)).

³ Also see. https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medaglia_interalleata_della_vittoria.

⁴ <https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/ferdinand-foch/>; <http://www.iagiforum.info/viewtopic.php?f=21&t=4767>.

government but, instead of an identical medal for everyone, each country would select an artist to create its own version.

To make the medals as similar as possible, however, they had to respect a series of specifications: they had to be in bronze, about 36 millimeters in diameter and with a smooth edge; the ribbon, identical for all nations, had to have the colors of a 'double rainbow', signifying the beginning of a new era of peace after the 'storm' of war, with red color in the middle and white piping at the edges external (Tab. IV, Fig. 6); the Obverse had to show the image of a standing "Winged Victory", on a smooth bottom, without inscriptions or dates⁵; the Reverse had to bear the inscription "The Great War for Civilization" in the language of each country with the name or emblem of the allied and associated nations: this last indication was followed by a few countries (Laslo 1992 (*supra*, n. 2)).⁶

1. The 'Inter-Allied Medal of Victory', Greece.

Greece coined about 200,000 of these medals; Army personnel wounded or killed in action, who died of their wounds, or who had served at least three months of active service at the front in Macedonia between 9 September 1916 and the truce of 7 September 1918 were entitled to it; and also who had served in the Russian campaign between the day of departure and the day of embarkation in Russia or Romania for the return to Greece, and at the Thracian front until July 17, 1920.

The criteria for sailors, modified by Royal Decree of 21 December 1922, provided for at least one year of service between 14 June 1917 and 25 November 1918. Each attribution was accompanied by a 'Certificate', with the name of the consignee⁷ (Tab. I, Fig. 3).

The medal consists of a bronze disc with a diameter of almost 37 mm., with an elaborate hook - the technical term in Italian is 'appiccagnolo' - for the multicolored ribbon. On the Obverse is the representation/reconstruction of the statue of the Nike of Peonio of Mende (Hofkes-Bukker 1963).⁸ (Tab. II, Fig. 4), shooting in flight, with a palm branch in the right hand and a

⁵ Japan and Siam, where the winged victory figure is not culturally important, adopted other subjects.

⁶ Also see. https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medaglia_interalleata_della_vittoria (*supra*, n. 3).

⁷ See. <https://www.medailles1914-1918.fr/grece-interallie.html>.

⁸ Also see. https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/peonio_%28Enciclopedia-Italiana%29/; https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peonio_di_Mende; <https://www.alinari.it/it/dettaglio/ACA-F-024854-0000>.

laurel wreath in the left; the signature of the engraver “Henry NOCQ”⁹ (Fig. 2 and Tab. III, Fig. 5), is placed on the lower left edge.

On the Reverse there is a plaque engraved with the names of the Allied Nations¹⁰, which supports the figure of the infant Heracles struggling with two snakes as incarnations of Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Along the edge the written in relief: “Ο ΜΕΓΑΣ ΥΠΕΡ ΤΟΥ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ ΠΟΛΕΜΟΣ”: “The Great War for Civilization”, and in exergue the years “1914-1918” Laslo 1992 (*supra*, n. 2).¹¹

2. The ‘Inter-Allied Medal of Victory’ (Greek) from the Yozgat Museum.



Fig. 1. Obverse and Reverse of the medal from Yozgat

⁹ French engraver, medalist and sculptor (1869-1942/4), to whom Toulouse-Lautrec dedicated a portrait: oil with solvent brush strokes on cardboard, cm. 63.9 x 48.2, in private collection. <https://books.openedition.org/inha/5768?lang=it>; <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.mutualart.com/Amp/Artwork/Portrait-de-Henri-Nocq/DB28596A501DED5E>. The medal was finally made by the Canale Company, at the time under the direction of Victor Canale, and still active in Paris: <https://www.medaillescanale.com/content/7-histoire-maison-canale>.

¹⁰ ΣΥΜΜΑΧΟΙ ΚΑΙ ΕΤΑΙΡΟΙ (Allies and Partners) in the center, at the top; left, in a row: ΑΓΓΛΙΑ (England), ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΜΝΩ ΜΕΝΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΙΑΙ (United States of America), ΒΕΛΓΙΟΝ (Belgium), ΓΑΛΛΙΑ (France), ΙΑΠΟΝΙΑ (Japan); right, in a row: ΜΑΥΡΟΒΟΥΝΙΟΝ (Montenegro), ΠΟΡΤΟΓΑΛΙΑ (Portugal), ΡΩΣΣΙΑ (Russia), ΡΟΥΜΑΝΙΑ (Romania), ΣΕΡΒΙΑ (Serbia), ΣΙΑΜ (Siam), Κ. Τ. Λ. (ΚΑΙ ΤΑ ΛΟΙΠΑ: ‘etc’, hastily, since there was no more space to engrave other names).

¹¹ See. *Μεγάλη Στρατιωτική και Ναυτική Εγκυκλοπαίδεια*, 1927-30 (*supra*, n. 2); [https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medaglia_interalleata_della_vittoria_\(Grecia\)](https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medaglia_interalleata_della_vittoria_(Grecia)) (*supra*, n. 2); https://www.mylitaria.it/liste_04/medaglia_vittoria_greca.htm.

THE 'INTER-ALLIED MEDAL OF VICTORY' (GREEK)
FROM THE YOZGAT MUSEUM

Although well preserved, some wear can be seen in the Yozgat medal, particularly on the Reverse, where the engraving of some names of the various allied nations and, above all, the relief date '1914-1918', are not very legible.¹²

The exemplar is also devoid of the hook which was to serve to support the multicolored ribbon: most likely, since it is an 'external' element, that is, subsequently added to the minting of the medal, it has detached and been lost, or detached on purpose to preserve only the medal's round (Tab. IV, figs. 7a and 7b). This exemplar is part of the 'Type 1', out of four identified, and also called the 'Official Model', of a classification based on small characteristics and variations in the position, in the yield, or in the absence of the engraver's name, and on the presence or absence of the Greek article 'O' on the Reverse: in this case, in fact, the engraver's name, Henry NOCQ, is placed on the lower left outer edge, and not inside the disc, as in the "Type 2"; moreover the name is rendered in lowercase letters, with the exception of the initial H, and the surname instead is entirely in capital letters (Fig. 2), while in the 'Type 2' both, the name and the surname, are rendered in capital letters.¹³



Fig. 2. The signature of the engraver, Henry NOCQ, on the lower outer edge, on the Obverse, slightly offset from the center line of the winged Nike figure

¹² The metric scale of figs. 1 and 2 has necessarily been increased with respect to reality to make the details more evident.

¹³ <https://www.medailles1914-1918.fr/grece-interallie.html> (*supra*, n. 7).

Conclusion

In conclusion, this medal is one of the many examples of how much these objects help us to reconstruct history, a history that may be distant in time but also very close to us; of how many subjects, characters, and events re-emerge from history itself and relive, albeit only on paper, and through this in our minds, arousing curiosity, and knowledge.

And at the same time, they are proof of how many questions they leave open: why and when such an object reached Yozgat, who did it originally belong to? and after, between how many and which hands did it pass and what use was made of it? Unfortunately, many questions remain and will remain forever pending, but at the same time this medal, and the history that it contains, have partly emerged from the oblivion for which they were intended.

REFERENCES

- HOFKES-BUKKER, Charline (1963), *Paionios*, in Enciclopedia dell'arte antica classica e orientale, vol. 5, Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana, Roma.
- LASLO, Alexander J. (1992), *The Interallied Victory Medals of World War I*, Second Revised Edition, Dorado Publishing, Albuquerque, N.M.
- Μεγάλη Στρατιωτική και Ναυτική Εγκυκλοπαίδεια* (1927-1930), Αθήνα, Volume K-M, pp. 514 – 515.
- PRISTER, Boris (2018), *Medalja pobjede u Prvom svjetskom ratu*. Num. vijesti, broj 71., Zagreb, pp. 240-267.

Internet Sources

- [https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medaglia_interalleata_della_vittoria_\(Grecia\)](https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medaglia_interalleata_della_vittoria_(Grecia)).
- https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medaglia_interalleata_della_vittoria.
- <https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/ferdinand-foch/>.
- <http://www.iagiforum.info/viewtopic.php?f=21&t=4767>.
- <https://www.medailles1914-1918.fr/grece-interallie.html>.
- https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/peonio_%28Enciclopedia-Italiana%29/.
- https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peonio_di_Mende.
- <https://www.alinari.it/it/dettaglio/ACA-F-024854-0000>.
- <https://books.openedition.org/inha/5768?lang=it>.
- <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.mutualart.com/Amp/Artwork/Portrait-de-Henri-Nocq/DB28596A501DED5E>.
- <https://www.medaillescanale.com/content/7-histoire-maison-canal>.
- https://www.mymilitaria.it/liste_04/medaglia_vittoria_greca.htm.

THE 'INTER-ALLIED MEDAL OF VICTORY' (GREEK)
FROM THE YOZGAT MUSEUM

EKLER

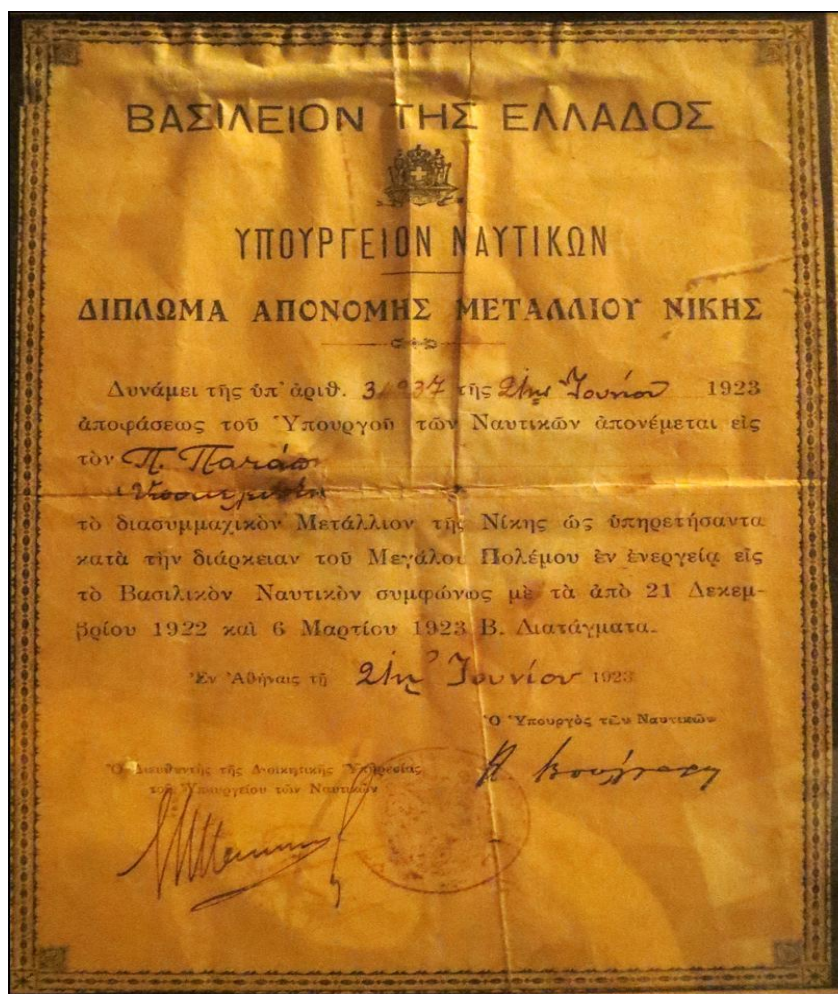


Fig. 3. Example of a Greek 'Certificate' that accompanied the donation of the 'Inter-Allied Victory Medal' (<https://www.medailles1914-1918.fr/grece-interallie.html>).



Fig. 4. Nike of Peonio of Mende (c. 425 BC)
(https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peonio_di_Mende)

THE 'INTER-ALLIED MEDAL OF VICTORY' (GREEK)
FROM THE YOZGAT MUSEUM



Fig. 5. Toulouse-Lautrec: portrait of Henry Nocq (1897)



Fig. 6. Example of a Greek-type medal with multicolored ribbon (<https://www.medailles1914-1918.fr/grece-interallie.html>).



Figs. 7a and 7b. Detail of a Greek-type medal with the hook for the multicolored ribbon (https://www.mymilitaria.it/liste_04/medaglia_vittoria_greca.htm)

THE 'INTER-ALLIED MEDAL OF VICTORY' (GREEK)
FROM THE YOZGAT MUSEUM

CAPTIONS OF THE FIGURES

Fig. 1. Obverse and Reverse of the Medal from Yozgat.

Fig. 2. The signature of the engraver, Henry NOCQ, on the lower outer edge, on the Obverse, slightly offset from the center line of the winged Nike figure.

Fig. 3. Example of a Greek 'Certificate' that accompanied the donation of the 'Inter-Allied Victory Medal'.

(<https://www.medailles1914-1918.fr/grece-interallie.html>).

Fig. 4. Nike of Peonio of Mende (c. 425 BC).

(https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peonio_di_Mende).

Fig. 5. Toulouse-Lautrec: portrait of Henry Nocq (1897).

Fig. 6. Example of a Greek-type medal with multicolored ribbon.

(<https://www.medailles1914-1918.fr/grece-interallie.html>).

Figs. 7a and 7b Detail of a Greek-type medal with the hook for the multicolored ribbon. (https://www.mymilitaria.it/liste_04/medaglia_vittoria_greca.htm).