

THE BRONZE AUGUSTUS PORTRAIT WHICH WAS FOUND in ERZİNCAN

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The casted in bronze portrait which was taken hold of in Erzincan² had been possibly plucked from a statue or a bust portrait (1, 5) which is understood from the line follows the lower part of the head, but that is not a strait line. The two holes on the neck of the portrait which had been later covered with green mould (patin) are thought as casting fault. Unfilled casting technique used for portrait can't be called very succesful.

Portrait height : 14.0 cm.
weight : 09.5 cm.
weight of inner neck : 06.0 cm.

Although, the portrait hasn't got clear clues for its origin, some details make it thought the portrait may be a emperor. Long curly slight scythic hair, eyes in a hole, large eyebrows, bulge cheekbones, sticking out ears and a head sligtly looking through left reflects the characteristics of J. Cladius period. Although, nose profile (2-3) doesn't fit completely, parting hairs in the middle on the forehead and their being directed to two sides, especially on a level of nose, single hair curl through left on the parting point are same of the personal characteristics of Roman Emperor Augustus³.

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2 The bronze portrait which was taken hold of by security forces after denunciation in Erzincan, it which was brought to Erzurum Archaeological Museum and it has been investigated by ours.

3 D.Magie, *Roman Rule in Asia Minor* (1950) 17 ; K.Höhn, *Augustus und seine Zeit* (1953) 6 ; J.İnan – E.Rosenbaum, *Roman and Early Byzantine Portrait Sculpture in Asia Minor* (1966) 57, Pl. I, 1; II,3; III, 1-3; IV, 1-2; V, 3-4; Z.Aydın, *Erzurum Müzesinde Sergilenen Roma Sikkeleri*, Atatürk University Institut of Social Sciences Postgraduate Seminar (1999) Cat. No. 1-4.

Today, when it is attended the Augustus portrait⁴ in Seljuk Museum which portrait we have, it seen many similarities between these two portraits. Consequently the basic characteristic in the first and second type of Augustus portraits⁵, it may be accepted this portrait as Augustus portrait too. The structure of the hair on the top of the head (4, 6) and on the nape and thin, long twisted whisker through cheek are also the most seen characteristics of Augustus portraits⁶.

By the light of these clues, it is getting certainty belongs to Augustus that this bronze portrait caught in Erzincan. In the period of enlargement of Roman Empire to east, it is witnessed that a new religious currency called "Empire Cult = NEOKOROS" had spread to the states simultaneously with goddess Roman Cult seen in eastern states and Anatolia. When Augustus died, it is known that each of the states had at least one "Roman Augustus Altar"⁷. It may be thought that bronze portrait comes from A.D. I century according to its local characteristic (strong chin and light plump face).

4 İnan-Rosenbaum, *ibid.*, Pl, V, 3-4.

5 İnan-Rosenbaum, *ibid.*, Pl. I,1; II, 1-3; III, 1-3; IV, 1-2; V, 3-4.

6 W.Alzinger, "Das Regierungsviertel" *Öjh* 50, 1972/75, 250-299 Abb. 16; A.W.F. Blunt, *Batı Uygarlığının Temelleri*. Tra. M.Terim (1984) 75 Res. 143.

7 O.Akşit, *Roma İmparatorluk Tarihi* (1985) 56.



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