

**BYZANTINE EMPRESS EVDOKIA MAKREMBOLITISSA
"COPPER FOLLES OF KONSTANTINE X DOUKAS FROM KUVA-Yİ
MİLLİYE MUSEUM and MANİSA MUSEUM"**

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ABSTRACT

Emperor Konstantinos X Doukas was depicted with his wife, empress Evdokia Makrembolitissa on his copper coins which were struck on between 1059 to 1076 and classified in Folles, Class 1. This group of copper coins are rare examples of Byzantine coinage with the depiction of empress. Furthermore, Folles, Class 1 are interesting and special examples with a depiction of empress on left hand side from the spectator's point of view which was very unusual hierarchical order in Byzantine coin iconography. In this paper, coins selected from Kuva-yi Milliye Museum and Manisa Museum and these unusual copper coins will be introduced.

Keywords: Byzantine, coins, Follis, Evdokia Makrembolitissa, Kuva-yi Milliye Museum, Manisa Museum

**BİZANS İMPARATORİÇESİ EVDOKIA MAKREMBOLITISSA
"KUVA-Yİ MİLLİYE VE MANİSA MÜZESİ'NDEN X. KONSTANTINOS
DOUKAS DÖNEMİNE AİT BAKIR FOLLES"**

ÖZET

İmparator X. Konstantinos Doukas (1059-1067) döneminde basılan bakır sikke birimi Folles, Sınıf 1 sikkelerinin arka yüzünde imparator, karısı Evdokia Makrembolitissa ile beraber tasvir edilmiştir. Bu sikke grubu Bizans sikke ikonografisinde sık kullanılmayan bir tip olan imparatoriçe tasvirlerine güzel bir örnek olmasının yanı sıra, imparatoriçenin sikkenin sol tarafında yer alması ise Bizans sikke tasvir hiyerarşi düzenine uymaması bakımından da ender örnekler arasında yer almaktadır. Kuva-yi Milliye Müzesi ve Manisa Müzesi sikke koleksiyonlarından seçilen sikke örnekleri ile bu ilginç bakır sikke grubu tanıtılacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Bizans, sikke, Follis, Evdokia Makrembolitissa, Kuva-yi Milliye Müzesi, Manisa Müzesi

Evdokia Makrembolitissa was born in 1021, Konstantinopolis. She was a daughter of Ioannes Makrembolites and a niece of Patriarch Mikhail I Keroularios. She married Konstantinos Doukas who was not an emperor yet by 1049. Konstantinos gained influence after he married as his second wife

Evdokia Makrembolitissa. When Konstantinos X Doukas took power, he relied on his brother and Caesar Ioannes Doukas, on Mikhail Psellos and on his wife Evdokia Makrembolitissa¹ (Treadgold 1997, 600). She became Augusta during her husband's reign. By Konstantinos she had seven children; one died as a child and two Konstantios and Zoe were born after Konstantinos became Byzantine emperor in 1059. In 1067, at the age of 60, the emperor died of an illness leaving Eudocia as regent for the two young boys (Sayles 1998, 90). By the time of Konstantinos's death in 1067 the situation was already serious, and with Byzantine opposition to the invaders so weak the Empire came close to foundering in the years that followed. The attacks came simultaneously from three boundaries; in the West the Normans under Robert Guiscard attacked Byzantine possessions in South Italy; the Balkans overrun by the Turkish tribe The Uzès and in the East, Asia Minor came across the attack of Seljuq's (Sear 2006, 361). Although Evdokia was named as regent for Mikhail and Konstantios, the actual business of government was in the hands of the Caesar Ioannes Duokas and the chief adviser Mikhail Psellos .When it became clear that an emperor was needed, Evdokia secretly married the dashing young Romanos Diogenes (Sayles 1998, 91). Although she swore in the presence of Patriarch Ioannes VIII Xiphilinos, synod and senate never to remarry as her husband was dying, she had to marry with Romanos Diogenes from Cappadocia against to attack from boundaries (ODB 1991, 739). Evdokia married him at the beginning of 1068. Romanos was immediately proclaimed co-emperor as Romanos IV and ruled with Evdokia Makrembolitissa as regents for her sons. Romanus IV tried hard to push back the Seljuks and had some success. However, after his defeat at the Battle of Manzikert in 1071 by the Seljuk Turks, he lost his power and he was deposed in a palace revolution (Lhotka 1989, 26). Ioannes Doukas compelled Evdokia to leave power to Mikhail and forced Evdokia to go to a monastery as a nun. Ioannes Doukas proclaimed Mikhail VII as the sole emperor with the help of the Varangians. Evdokia died as a nun in Konstantinopolis sometime at 1090's.

Evdokia Makrembolitissa who was depicted with Konstantinos X Doukas on silver and bronze coins.² Under Konstantinos X the issue of folles having an imperial figure or monogram, was continued by his successors, the coins being issued and circulating alongside of the later folles having religious designs only (Hendy 1985, 512, Pl. 29, 11-13). Copper Follis, showing the emperor and his wife Evdokia (on the left), is the first copper coin bear an

¹ Mikhail Psellos gives description of both Konstantinos X Doukas and Evdokia Makrembolitissa in his book (Demirkent 1992, 211-224).

² Although the fineness of gold coins in the age of Konstantinos IX Monomakhos (1042-55) ranged between a full 24 and 18 carats, his successors Theodora (1055-56), Mikhail VI. Bringas (1056-57), Isaakios I Komnenos (1057-9), Konstantinos X Doukas (1059-7), and Evdokia Makrembolitissa and her sons (1067) all seem to average at 18 carats fine (Hendy 1985, 509.)

emperor's name since the Anonymous³ series began a century before (Whitting 1973, 195, 322-23).

Groups of colleagues who do not fall into the category of potential successors were arranged on the coins according to a fairly strict protocol. When there were only two figures, the senior was placed on the left from the spectator's point of view (Grierson 1999, 26). P. Grierson said that the apparent anomaly in the order of precedence in Folles/Class 1, with Evdokia instead of her husband occupying the place of honor (DOC 3 1973, 766). Evdokia stands what was traditionally regarded as the place of honour, on the spectator's left, but her hand is placed beneath that of her husband on the shaft of the labarum. These coins were all overstruck on Anonymous Folles, Class A, B, C, D, E and although the reverses are usually in better condition than the obverses, the inscriptions are rarely altogether legible (DOC 1973, 774, footnote 8). There is a problem about where these coins were struck; Konstantinopolis, Thessaloniki or Antiokheia? Different numismatists discussed from the end of the 19th century to the 1990's about which mint issued the copper coins of Folles, Class 1 in the reign of Konstantinos X Doukas. Furthermore, what was the difference in the reign of Konstantinos X Doukas that introduced this extraordinary type of depiction on which Evdokia was standing on the left side of the group of copper coins. Were these coins referred only to one mint or were all those mints struck the same issue? The secret of the depiction of these coins came from the power of empress Evdokia Makrembolitissa and also her husband emperor Konstantinos X Doukas showed respect to her in front of the public with the help of this depiction. If Konstantinos wanted to give honour to his wife with the help of the coin depiction, why did he choose this type of coin? In the reverse of the miliaresion of Konstantinos X Doukas, empress and emperor were depicted in the right order of protocol, so why weren't the coins of issue with valuable metals like gold or silver chosen for this mission? All these questions are open to discussion. Konstantinos X Doukas might have given honour to his wife because she was a member of an old and powerful Byzantine family and she also was a wise woman. Moreover, he didn't want to take reaction from nobles of the empire. Although, he always gave great respect to his wife and family and wanted to show his opinion to the public for providing a support to them, he avoided facing the revolt of nobles because of his ideas.

In conclusion, Kuvay-i Milliye and Manisa Museums have thousands of coins from different cultures and ages. After autumn research in October 2010 we studied nine samples of Folles, Class 1 from the reign of Konstantinos X Doukas from Manisa Museum and after summer research in August 2011 we studied three samples from Kuvay-i Milliye Museum. These twelve coins will

³ Anonymous Folles; Byzantine copper coins struck between 970 and 1092 not bearing the names of individual emperors. Called also Anonymous Bronze or from their main type, Rex Regnantium Folles (Grierson 1982, 340).

be presented differently from their normal size in order to create more explanatory presentation in this paper.

Follis⁴ (1059-1067)

Æ-Class 1 (Two standing figures)

Obverse: + ΕΜΜΑ ΝΟΒΗΛ. Christ standing on square souppedion⁵, facing, bearded, with one pellet in each limb of cross on nimbus, wearing tunic⁶ and himation⁷, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book by lower edge. In field; **IC** and **XC**.

Reverse: +ΚΩΝΤΑΚ (on right) ΕΥΔΚΑΥΤΟ (on left) To left Eudocia standing, facing, wearing modified loros⁸ with kite-shaped lower panel and crown with cross and pendilia⁹. To right, Constantine standing, facing, wearing modified loros and crown with cross and pendilia. They hold between them labarum¹⁰, with cross-piece on shaft, standing base and three steps, and each places one hand on heart (Grierson 1973, 774).

References: DOC 3/Part 2 1973, 774-776, 8.1-32.; Sear 2006, 363, 1853.; Goodacre 1971, 247, 8.; Tolstoy 1991, 81, 146, Table 83, 12.; Hendy 1985, Plate 29, 11.; Raeder 1987, 135, 265-66.; Kent 1985, 62-63, 94.; Oberländer-Târnoveanu 1996, 95.; Sabatier 1955, 164-169.; Wroth 1966, 517, LXI, 7-8.; Grierson 1982, Plate 57, 995.; Bordea 2004, 146, 1369-1393.; Whitting 1973, 193, 195, 322-323.; Ratto 1959, Plate XLVIII, 2021.; Bateson-Campbell 1998, 113, 5-7.; Tekin 1999, 189, Plate XXIV, 278-281.; Tekin 2011, 64-65, Plate 7, 103.

⁴ Follis (ὁ φύλλις); A Latin word originally meaning a purse but used in the Byzantine period for the largest denomination of copper coin, initially worth 40 nummi (Grierson 1982, 342).

⁵ Souppedion (τὸ σουππῆδιον); a low footstool or cushion on which Christ or the emperor sometimes stands (Grierson 1982, 345).

⁶ Tunic (χιτώνας); wool, linen or cotton tunics, short or long, short-sleeved or long-sleeved, were the basic garment of most citizens of the empire, men and women alike, from the highest to the lowest (Ševčenko 1991, 2127-28).

⁷ Himation (ἱμάτιον); a mantle, the Greek equivalent of the Roman pallium. It was originally an oblong outer garment of wool or linen, worn over the tunic, and draped over the left shoulder and body in such a way as to leave the right shoulder free (Ševčenko 1991, 932).

⁸ Loros (ὁ λῶρος); The elaborately decorated consular robe. In the Byzantine period it had the form of a long jeweled scarf wound round the body, so that one end hung down in front and the other hung over the wearer's left arm (Grierson 1999, 57).

⁹ Pendilia or prepedulia (πρεπενδούλια); pendants hanging down each side of the imperial crown and distinguishing it from the crowns worn by caesars (Grierson 1982, 344.; Grierson 1999, 58).

¹⁰ Labarum (τὸ λάβαρον); The Roman standard that Constantine the Great christianized with the Christogram (Grierson 1999, 57).

Kuvay-i Milliye Museum:

Æ, Pl. I, Fig.1., Inventory No. 419. dia. 29 mm.

Æ, Pl. I, Fig.2., Inventory No. 418. dia. 28 mm.

Æ, Pl. I, Fig.3., Inventory No. 26. dia. 31 mm.

Manisa Museum:

Æ, Pl. II, Fig.4., Inventory No. 3852. dia. 30 mm.

Æ, Pl. II, Fig.5., Inventory No. 3854. dia. 29 mm.

Æ, Pl. II, Fig.6., Inventory No. 4255. dia. 28 mm.

Æ, Pl. III, Fig.7., Inventory No. 8054. dia. 29 mm.

Æ, Pl. III, Fig.8., Inventory No. 10900. dia. 28 mm.

Æ, Pl. III, Fig.9., Inventory No. 18092. dia. 31 mm.

Æ, Pl. IV, Fig.10., Inventory No. 19480. dia. 29 mm.

Æ, Pl. IV, Fig.11., Inventory No. 20504. dia. 30 mm.

Æ, Pl. IV, Fig.12., Inventory No. 20508. dia. 29 mm.

Plate: I

Kuvay-i Milliye Museum



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Plate: II
Manisa Museum



Fig. 4



Fig.. 5



Fig. 6

Plate: III



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

Plate: IV



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

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