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## Early Byzantine Weights in the Silifke Museum

*Abstract:* The article deals with the early Byzantine weights in the Silifke Museum. In the catalogue there are twenty weights which were placed under four groups. First group consists of the discoid commercial weights while the second group consists of square commercial weights. The third and fourth groups consist of the coin weights. The commercial weights range from three-*unciae* to one-*uncia* while the coin weights range from eighteen-*nomismata* to one-*nomisma*.

*Keywords:* Weights; *uncia*; *nomisma*; Cilicia; Seleucia ad Calycadnum; Silifke; Early Byzantine.

Silifke is a small town in the southern Anatolia where the ancient site of Seleucia ad Calycadnum lies in Cilicia. In the collection of Silifke Museum there are twenty Early Byzantine weights, all of them are bronze.<sup>1</sup> They can be placed under four groups. Group 1 (nos. 1–6) consists of the discoid commercial weights. Of the six weights in this group, two are three-*unciae* weights (nos. 1–2) while four are one-*uncia* weights (nos. 3–6). Group 2 (nos. 7–9) consists of square commercial weights and of the three weights in this group two are two-*unciae* weights (nos. 7–8) while one is a one-*uncia* (no. 9). Group 3 consists only one discoid coin weight, i.e. only one example of a two-*nomismata* (no. 10). In Group 4 (nos. 11–20) there are square coin weights comprising one eighteen-*nomismata* (no. 11), two three-*nomismata* (nos. 12–13), one two-*nomismata* (no. 14) and six one-*nomisma* weights (nos. 15–20), respectively. All the weights may be dated to the 5<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

### Group 1: Discoid Commercial Weights

#### 1) Inv. no. 2419. Three-*unciae*

This is a bronze weight, discoid with convex double-grooved profile; raised rim and centring points on the top and bottom; measuring 39x11 mm and weighing 80.85 g. Punched on the top with the denominational mark Γο Γ between two engraved bands which are decorated with curls; above and below, cross-like motif between the motifs of three dots. On the bottom, there are concentric lathe traces. Patinated. It is a three-*unciae* weight. In the published collections, it is hard to find an exact parallel of this weight.<sup>2</sup> Acquisition date, 1985; find place, uncertain.

#### 2) Inv. no. 2400. Three-*unciae*

Bronze weight, discoid in form with convex double-grooved profile and raised rim and small centring point only on the top; it measures 39x9 mm and weighs 78.70 g (*uncia* of 26.23 g). Engraved on the top with a wreath enclosing a cross above the denominational mark Γ Γ; originally both inlaid originally but inlay is missing.<sup>3</sup> It is a three-*unciae* weight. The reverse is blank. Patinated. Acquisition date and find place, uncertain.

#### 3) Inv. no. 2764. *Unxia*

Bronze weight, discoid with convex double-grooved profile; raised rim and centring points on the top and bottom; measuring 27x7 mm and weighing 27.60 g. Engraved on the top with a cross above the

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<sup>1</sup> I would like to thank İlham Öztürk, directress of the Museum, for permitting me to study and publish the weights. Note: Catalogue numbers also refer to the plate numbers.

<sup>2</sup> For a similar example see Hendin 2007, 218 no. 376.

<sup>3</sup> Although not parallel cf. CPAI II no. 249 (inlay intact); BM P&E 1980, 6–1, 50 and 1982, 5–6, 20 (inlay intact).

denominational mark Γο Α; originally not inlaid.<sup>4</sup> The bottom has slightly raised rim flattened by chisel; there are concentric circles; wear on the edge. Patinated. It is a one-*uncia* weight. Bought in 1990; find place, uncertain.

4) Inv. no. 2401. *Uncia*

Bronze weight, discoid with convex double-grooved profile; raised rim and central boss on the top; engraved line along the profile but part of it erased; measuring 25x6 mm and weighing 22.90 g; engraved on the top with a cross above the denominational mark Γο Α, not inlaid originally; extremities of the letters and cross are marked.<sup>5</sup> The bottom is blank. Patinated. It is a one-*uncia* weight. Acquisition date and find place, uncertain.

5) Inv. no. 2403. *Uncia*

Bronze weight, discoid in form with plain profile; measuring 28x6 mm and weighing 25.95 g. Engraved on the top with a herring-bone wreath enclosing a cross above the denominational mark Γο Α, originally inlaid but inlay is missing. The bottom is blank. It is a one-*uncia* weight. Patinated and heavily corroded. Acquisition date and find place, uncertain.

6) Inv. no. 2402. *Uncia*

Bronze weight, discoid with plain profile; measuring 25x6 mm and weighing 25.40 g. Engraved on the top with a herring-bone wreath enclosing a long cross flanked by the denominational mark Γο Α, originally inlaid but inlay is missing<sup>6</sup>. The bottom is blank but irregular incisions, heavily corroded. It is a one-*uncia* weight. Acquisition date and find place, uncertain.

## Group 2: Square Commercial Weights

7) Inv. no. 2399. Two-*unciae*

Bronze weight; square in form with triple-groove profile; the top stepped back from the edge; measuring 26x25x10 mm and weighing 52.90 g. Engraved on the top with a façade composed of a central rounded arch (hardly visible) flanked by two triangular pediments resting on four columns supported by a plinth. Inside the façade (in middle) is a cross flanked by the denominational mark Γ Β. Above, incised with ΘΕ8 ΧΑΡΙC (Grace of God); letters and cross as well as column capitals and bases are originally inlaid but inlay is missing; an incision of large X to upper right part.<sup>7</sup> The bottom is blank but engraved a square-like motif in which is a large circular extra piece. Corroded. It is a two-*unciae* weight. Acquisition date and find place, uncertain.

8) Inv. no. 1122. Two-*unciae*

Bronze weight; square in form with plain profile; measuring 30x30x8 mm and weighing 52.80 g. Engraved on the top with a herring-bone and scalloped wreath enclosing a long cross flanked by the denominational mark Γ Β, originally inlaid but inlay is missing; bottom is blank.<sup>8</sup> Corroded. It is a two-*unciae* weight. Bought in 1972; find place, uncertain.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Houben 1982, Pl. 2 no. 12; Manns 1984, Pl. 11 no. 16; Pottier 2004, Pl. III no. 6.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. Houben 1982, Pl. 2 no. 12; Pottier 2004, Pl. III no. 6.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. Dürr 1964 no. 84; Manns 1984, Pl. 11 no. 19; CPAI II, Pl. 68 nos. 261 and 266 (not inlaid originally); BM P&E 1980, 6–1 nos. 126–127.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. Hendin 2007 no. 383; Qedar 1981 no. 132. The three-*unciae* examples of this type are most common than the two-*unciae* examples in the collections: Bendall 1996 no. 66; Curčić – Clair 1986, 73 no. 48; Entwistle 2002, 614 no. 7; CPAI II no. 273; Tekin 2013 no. 66.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. Dieudonné 1931, Pl. II no. 10; Dürr 1964 nos. 42–45, 50–53, 55; Breuer – Alenus-Lecerf 1965, 108 nos. 5 and 7; Qedar 1979 no. 4159; Qedar 1981 nos. 131 and 134; Houben 1982, Pl. 4 nos. 40–43; Vasilopoulou 1983, Pl. 86 no. 19; Manns 1984 nos. 8–9; Pottier 2004, Pl. II no. 2.

9) Inv. no. 1495. *Uncia*

Bronze weight; square with slightly concave profile; measuring 22x23x6 mm and weighing 25.80 g. Engraved on the top with a herring-bone wreath enclosing a long cross flanked by the denominational mark Γο Α, originally inlaid but inlay is missing; engraved and punched crosses in the corners; the bottom is blank.<sup>9</sup> Corroded. It is a one-*uncia* weight. Bought in 1974; find place, uncertain.

**Group 3: Discoid Coin Weight**10) Inv. no. 2754. *Two-nomismata*

Bronze weight; discoid with convex double-grooved profile; raised rim and central boss on the top; measuring 18x5 mm and weighing 8.65 g. Engraved on the top with a cross above the denominational mark Ñ B, originally not inlaid; bottom is blank but full of irregular incisions.<sup>10</sup> It is a two-*nomismata* weight. Patinated and corroded. Bought in 1990; find place, uncertain.

**Group 4: Square Coin Weights**11) Inv. no. 1291. *Eighteen-nomismata*

Bronze weight; square in form with plain profile; measuring 36x36x8 mm and weighing 77.90 g. Engraved on the top with a herring-bone and scalloped wreath enclosing a cross above the denominational mark Ñ IH, originally inlaid but inlay is missing; bottom is blank.<sup>11</sup> Corroded. It is an *eighteen-nomismata* weight. Found near the church at Aphrodisias (Cilicia) in 1972.

12) Inv. no. 531. *Three-nomismata*

Bronze weight; square with plain profile; measuring 20x20x4 mm and weighing 13.20 g. Engraved on the top with a herring-bone wreath enclosing a cross above the denominational mark Ñ Γ, although the cross is not inlaid originally, the denominational mark is inlaid but inlay is missing; the bottom is blank.<sup>12</sup> Patinated and corroded. It is a three-*nomismata* weight. Bought in 1967; find place, uncertain.

13) Inv. no. 562. *Three-nomismata*

Bronze weight; square with plain profile; measuring 20x19x5 mm and weighing 13.60 g. Engraved on the top with a herring-bone wreath enclosing a cross above the denominational mark Ñ Γ, originally inlaid but inlay is missing; the bottom is blank.<sup>13</sup> Patinated and corroded. It is a three-*nomismata* weight. Bought in 1967; find place, uncertain.

14) Inv. no. 2034. *Two-nomismata*

Bronze weight; square in form with plain profile; measuring 16x16x5 mm and weighing 9.10 g. Engraved on the top with a wreath enclosing the denominational mark Ñ B; originally inlaid but inlay is missing; motif of three dots in the corners.<sup>14</sup> The bottom is blank. Corroded. It is a two-*nomismata* weight. Bought in 1981; find place, uncertain.

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<sup>9</sup> Cf. Dürr 1964 no. 72; Breuer – Alenus-Lecerf 1965, 104 no. 20A and p.108 no. 2; Qedar 1978 no. 102; Qedar 1979 nos. 4164–4166; Qedar 1981 no. 142; Houben 1982 no. 46 (herring-bone wreath is within a double circle); Manns 1984, Pl. 11 no. 17; Holland 2009 no. 51; CPAI II nos. 281–282; BM P&E 1980, 6–1 nos. 217–218.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. Houben 1982 no. 31; Pottier 2004, Pl. IV no. 6.

<sup>11</sup> Cf. Dürr 1964, Pl. 8 no. 64 (no wreath); Qedar 1983 no. 5133; Hendin 2007 no. 373 (no wreath); BM P&E 1982, 5–6 no. 58 (var., motifs on the corners).

<sup>12</sup> Cf. Dieudonné 1931 no. 80; Dürr 1964 no. 119; Wamser 2004 no. 801 (intact inlay); CPAI II nos. 204 and 206.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. Dieudonné 1931 no. 80; Dürr 1964 no. 119; Wamser 2004 no. 801 (intact inlay); CPAI II nos. 204 and 206.

<sup>14</sup> Cf. Breuer – Alenus-Lecerf 1965, 104 no. 20C; Manns 1984, 13 no. 50; Wamser 2004 nos. 803–804; Minchev 2008 no. 73 fig. 43; Acara-Eser 2009, 180 no. 3 fig. 6; Pottier 2004, Pl. IV no. 5; CPAI II nos. 214–215.

15) Inv. no. 903. *Nomisma*

Bronze weight; square in form with plain profile; measuring 7x7x4 mm and weighing 4.35 g. Engraved on the top with the double-countered denominational mark Ñ, originally not inlaid; the bottom is blank.<sup>15</sup> Patinated and corroded. It is a one-*nomisma* weight. Bought in 1969; find place, uncertain.

16) Inv. no. 2010–47 (A). *Nomisma*

Bronze weight; square in form with plain profile; measuring 13x13x2 mm and weighing 4.35 g. Engraved on the top with the denominational mark N, the extremities of N are marked with a dot; two groups of three punched dots in the angles; originally not inlaid; the bottom is blank.<sup>16</sup> Corroded. It is a one-*nomisma* weight. Bought in 2010; find place, uncertain.

17) Inv. no. 2010–48 (A). *Nomisma*

Bronze weight; rectangular in form with plain profile; measuring 15x12x3 mm and weighing 3.95 g. Engraved on the top with the denominational mark N; punched dots on the arms of N; two groups of three punched dots in the angles; originally not inlaid; the bottom is blank.<sup>17</sup> Corroded. It is a one-*nomisma* weight. Bought in 2010; find place, uncertain.

18) Inv. no. 2009–40 (A). *Nomisma*

Bronze weight; rectangular in form; measuring 15x11x2 mm and weighing 4.02 g. Engraved on the top with the denominational mark N; a motif of three dots in the angles and; originally not inlaid.<sup>18</sup> It is a one-*nomisma* weight. Bought in 2009; find place, uncertain; the reverse is blank.

19) Inv. no. 1607. *Nomisma*

Bronze weight; square in form with plain profile; measuring 13x13x4 mm and weighing 4.10 g. Engraved on the top with the denominational mark N, the extremities of the letter are marked; in the angles, one dot; originally not inlaid; the bottom is blank.<sup>19</sup> Patinated and corroded. It is a one-*nomisma* weight. Bought in 1975; find place, uncertain.

20) Inv. no. 2005–12 (A). *Nomisma*

Bronze weight; square in form; measuring 14x14x2 mm and weighing 4.22 g. Engraved deeply on the top and on the bottom with the denominational mark N, originally not inlaid. Corroded. It is a one-*nomisma* weight. Bought in 2005 (Found at Bayramlı).

## Abbreviated Literature

Acara-Eser 2009	M. Acara-Eser, Ankara Anadolu Medeniyetleri Müzesi'ndeki Sikke Kontrol Ağırlıkları ve Ticari Ağırlıklar, in: A. O. Alp (ed.), Ebru Parman'a Armağan. Sanat Tarihi ve Arkeoloji Yazıları, Ankara 2009, 175–189.
Bendall 1996	S. Bendall, Byzantine Weights. An Introduction, London 1996.
BM	Draft Catalogue of the Byzantine Weights in the Collection of British Museum by C. Entwistle.
Breuer – Alenus-Lecerf 1965	J. Breuer – J. Alenus-Lecerf, La boîte a poids monétaires de Luttomel, <i>Archaeologia Belgica</i> 86, 1965, 103–116.
CPAI I	O. Tekin – A. M. Merzeci, Corpus Ponderum Antiquorum et Islamicorum. Turkey 1: The Collection of Klima Plus in Silifke Museum. Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic Weights, Turkish Institute of Archaeology, Istanbul

<sup>15</sup> Cf. Houben 1982 no. 58; Ocheșeanu 1984 no. 17; Minchev 2008, 14 no. 36 fig. 17; Weber 2009 no. 205; Lightfoot 2012, 257 no. 8; CPAI I no. 65.

<sup>16</sup> Cf. Dürr 1964 nos. 208–210; Vasilopoulou 1983 no. 47; Weber 2009 no. 1; Acara-Eser 2009 no. 1; CPAI II no. 226.

<sup>17</sup> Cf. Weber 2009, Taf. 14 no. 442.

<sup>18</sup> Cf. Weber 2009, Taf. 8 no. 235, Taf. 14 no. 442.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. Dürr 1964, 36 no. 207; Weber 2009, Taf. 1 no. 27.

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## Özet

## Silifke Müzesi'nde Erken Bizans Ağırlıkları

Makalede, Silifke Müzesi koleksiyonundaki Erken Bizans ağırlıkları ele alınmaktadır. Katalogda yirmi adet ağırlık yer almakta olup söz konusu ağırlıklar dört grup altında toplanmışlardır. Birinci grupta disk formunda ticari ağırlıklar yer alırken ikinci grupta kare formlu ticari ağırlıklar vardır. Üçüncü ve dördüncü gruplarda sikke kontrol ağırlıkları bulunmaktadır. Ticari ağırlıklar üç-*unciae*'den bir-*uncia*'ya kadar olan birimleri kapsarken, sikke ağırlıkları onsekiz-*nomismata*'dan bir-*nomisma*'ya kadar olan birimleri kapsamaktadır.

*Anahtar sözcükler:* Ağırlıklar; *uncia*; *nomisma*; Kilikia; Seleucia ad Calycadnum; Silifke; Erken Bizans.

