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With thanks to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.
ON AN ELECTRUM STATER.

POSSIBLY OF EPHESUS.

COMMUNICATED TO

THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF LONDON

BY CHARLES T NEWTON, ESQ., M.A.

LONDON:
1870.
ON AN ELECTRUM STATER, POSSIBLY OF EPHESUS.

By Charles T. Newton, Esq., M.A.

In the collection of the Bank of England, now deposited in the British Museum, is an electrum stater, obtained by Borrell at Smyrna in 1825, and attributed by Mionnet, Suppl. vi. p. 213, No. 896, to Erythrae, in Ionia, an attribution which Borrell does not admit in his remarks, Num. Chron. vii. p. 65.

As neither Mionnet nor Borrell have correctly read the inscription on this coin, I take this opportunity of re-publishing it. It may be thus described:—

Obv.—Stag to the right, grazing, around ΦΑΕΝΟΡΕΜΙ ΣΕΜΛΑ.

Rev.—Oblong sinking placed between two square sinkings.

The treatment of the stag, and the forms of the letters show that this coin belongs to the archaic period. From the evidence of the palæography, I should be disposed to assign it to the same period as the staters which I brought from Branchidae, viz., some time between the fortieth and sixtieth Olympiad—n.c. 620 to 540.
ON AN ELECTRUM STATER.

So far as I know, no other inscribed coin in electrum of so early a date has ever been discovered. This stater was no doubt struck by some city on the western coast of Asia Minor. Its provenance was unknown to Borrell, and the attribution to Erythrae by Mionnet rests on a misreading of the last three letters of the inscription. The type of a stag seems to connect this coin with Ephesus, though there is no other evidence in support of such an attribution.

Of the three words which compose the legend on this coin, the last two present no difficulty—EMI ΣΗΜΑ, "I am the coin," is a form analogous to the legend ΤΩΝ ΓΕΛΟΙΩΝ EMI on a bronze weight, published by Böckh, C. i. 8521, and may be further compared with the ΓΟΡΤΥΝΟΣ ΤΟ ΣΑΙΜΑ on General Fox’s coin of Gortyna, with the ΣΕΥΘΑ ΚΟΜΜΑ and ΣΕΥΘΑ ΑΡΙΤΥΠΙΟΝ on the coins of Seuthes, King of Thrace, and with the ΑΞΕΛΟΙΟ on a silver coin of Metapontum. The analogy of these legends proves that the first word in the legend of the Bank stater must be considered as a genitive: "I am the coin of such a city or ruler." This word I read ΦΑΕΝΟΒ, and suppose the final R to have been used instead of 2, as in the Æolic and Laconian dialects, see Böckh, i. p. 28; Ahrens, De Dial. Dor., p. 70; and as on the celebrated Elean rheutra on a bronze plate, Böckh, C. i. 11, where we find τωρ for τως, and τωρ for τως. If this reading is correct, the genitive, φαενοβ, could only be formed from φαενω, which does not seem a probable name for a place.† The weight of this coin is 216.3 grains, and it is almost a duplicate of the standard, ranging from 216.2 to 216.3 grains in the stater struck at the city of Samos. This coin has been carefully studied, and it is described in detail in a paper by Schindler, and which, however, has been communicated to me by Professor Schindler, describes the coin of Ephesus in a different way. The weight of this coin is 217.3 grains, and slightly more than the weight of the standard.

On the Bank stater, I have given the following inscription in the style of the Bank stater. The inscription has been carefully studied, and it is described in detail in a paper by Schindler, and which, however, has been communicated to me by Professor Schindler, describes the coin of Ephesus in a different way. The weight of this coin is 217.3 grains, and slightly more than the weight of the standard.

† If we could suppose this coin to have been struck at Ephesus, φαενω, "the bright one," may be an epithet of Artemis. The legend would then read, "I am the coin of the bright one," i.e., of Artemis; in other words, the stater would
ON AN ELECTRUM STATER.

The electrum of a stater was found by Borrell, on the coast of Samos, and described by a description. The coin with the support of this

I have been so marked to show that it was issued from the mint of the Temple of the Ephesian Artemis. See the Memoir by Curtius recently translated by Mr. Head in N.C., x. p. 91.

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