

Cypriot Bronze Coins of Cleopatra with Caesarion; Two Eagles on Ptolemaic Coins as Representations of Co-Regency

Richard Pincock

Summary. — The presence of a Cyprus monogram and an Isis symbol, together with evidence from type correlations and site finds, firmly establish two late Ptolemaic coins (Sv. 1842 and Sv. 1843) as Cypriot coins of Cleopatra VII produced during the time of co-regency with her son Caesarion. Since these coins have two-eagle reverses a review of such dual-eagle types on Ptolemaic coins is also presented. The coincidence of two-eagle reverse types during times of two regents strongly indicates that such reverses are symbolic of Ptolemaic co-regency.

Résumé. — La présence d'un monogramme de Chypre et d'un emblème d'Isis, ainsi que celle de corrélations du type et d'objets trouvés in situ, prouvent fermement l'identité de deux pièces chypriotes de l'époque ptolémaïque tardive (Sv. 1842 et Sv. 1843) comme pièces chypriotes du règne de Cléopâtre VII, frappées pendant le temps de la corégence avec son fils Césarion. La présence de deux aigles au revers de ces pièces suggère aussi une réévaluation générale du motif de l'aigle double sur les pièces ptolémaïques est aussi présentée. Le fait que le revers représentant l'aigle double caractérise également la période de double régence indique nettement que ces revers servent de symbole d'une corégence ptolémaïque.

Certain coins of Cleopatra VII, which relate to her co-regent Caesarion (son of Caesar), have often been overlooked in catalogues and reviews of Ptolemaic coins, or misattributed to her father (Ptolemy XII), her uncle (Ptolemy, King of Cyprus), or her brother (Ptolemy XIV) and sister (Arsinoe IV).¹ They are the four types of bronze coins shown on Pl. I, 1-4, and described in Table 1 together with various published attributions beginning in 1883.

In 1904 Svoronos attributed the four types to Cleopatra/Caesarion.² A review of his attributions, together with additional arguments and comments that strongly support three of them, is presented below. Then some characteristics and relationships of individual examples are reported, followed by a review of certain errors in Svoronos' catalogue that have contributed to the neglect of his clear and reasonable attributions to Cleopatra. In order to put the coins into historical context, a summary is given outlining the relationships and chronology of the persons named in the various attributions listed in column three of Table 1. Finally, as the coins predominantly have two eagles on the reverse rather than the usual single eagle, a general review of the significance of such dual eagles on Ptolemaic coinage is presented.

¹ See examples in column three of Table I. For an excellent review of coins of Cleopatra see S. Walker and P. Higgs (eds), *Cleopatra of Egypt* (London and Princeton, 2001), nos. 177-86, 214-60, 246a-b. That review does not mention the coins considered here.

² J. N. Svoronos, *Tá νομίσματα του κράτους των Πτολεμαίων* (Athens, 1904); German translation in vol. IV, *Die Münzen der Ptolemäer* (Athens, 1908).