A GROUP OF ANONYMOUS FOLLES FROM KUVA-YI MILLIYE MUSEUM, BALIKESIR/TURKEY

Ceren ÜNAL

Özet


Anahtar Kelimeler: Bizans, Sikke, Bakır, Anonim, Kuva-yi Milliye Müzesi, Balıkesir.

Abstract

The Anonymous Folles have depictions of Christ on their obverse and all of them were not struck in the name of any particular emperor. The Anonymous Folles haven’t got any title of emperor and depiction. That’s why, the copper coins of these which were strucked between the 970 to 1092 were called the Anonymous Folles according to their types. They are grouped into fifteen classes according to their size and depictions. Kuva-yi Milliye Museum, Balıkesir/Turkey have a group of Anonymous Folles which are from different Classes. Anonymous Folles are researched which are belong to Class A2, B, C, E, F, G, I. The aim of this paper is to introduce the group of 48 Anonymous Folles from Kuva-yi Milliye Museum, Balıkesir/Turkey.

Key Words: Byzantine, Coin, Copper, Anonymous, Kuva-yi Milliye Museum, Balıkesir.

* Dr. Ceren ÜNAL, Celal Bayar University, Faculty of Science and Letters, Department of History of Art, Muradiye Campus/MANISA.
The Anonymous Folles were struck the years between 970 to 1092 and at that time 16 rulers were on the throne. Ioannes I. Tzimiskes made a much more evident change in the copper in the 970’s. He replaced the figure of the emperor on the follis by a bust of Christ and the emperor’s name and titles by a religious inscription. These Anonymous Folles were not attributed to the reigns of particular emperors with certainty. The different types of Anonymous Folles can be arranged in chronological order and roughly dated on the evidence of overstrikes. Folles in the names of individual emperors were reintroduced in the 1960’s, under Constantine X. Both signed and anonymous coins were being struck concurrently (Grierson 1990, 10).

Three important numismatists; Mr. W. Wroth, Mr. A. Bellinger and Miss Thompson studied the Anonymous Bronze coins. Each of these coins were classified according to their depictions which are on their obverse and the reverse between the end of the 19th century and in the beginning of the 20th century (Bellinger 1928, 10-13.; Sabatier 1955, 138-214.; Wroth 1966, 435-539). Later on, Mr. Grierson distinguished and classified the group of Anonymous Folles in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection in 1973 and he classified the Anonymous types in 15 Classes and used the Miss Thompson’s letter system to identify them. Miss Thompson’s alphabetical classification of the chronological sequence of types has been adopted in Byzantine coin catalogues (Sear 2006, 375). This study is still great and available today.

These 15 classes are classified according to their types and the sequence of their struck. All of them are identified by letters; from A to N. Class A is also divided into two parts according to their modules which are small, called Class A1 and large, called Class A2. All of them follow the chronological order and some of them overstruck on earlier ones.

The Anonymous Folles have lots of examples in Turkish Museums and coin finds of excavations in Anatolia. The Museum of Kuva-yi Milliye has approximately 2,500 coins from different cultures and ages. After summer research in August 2011, 48 samples of Classes A2, B, C, E, F, G and I from Kuva-yi Milliye Museum are classified and presented.

**CLASS A2:**

Class A2 are classified according to its ornaments on nimbus, book and field. 25 samples and 8 different variations of Class A2 are presented.

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1 Miss Margaret Thompson classified the anonymous types which found in the Agora excavations at Athens.

2 The city of Balikesir is located in the North-western part of Turkey and the Museum of Kuva-yi Milliye was established in 1996.

3 This paper was presented visually in 22nd International Congress of Byzantine Studies: Byzantium Without Borders in Sophia, 22-27 August 2011/ Sessions of Free Communications.
Variation 3 (976(?)-1030/35)

Obverse: +ЄMMA NOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic⁴ and himation⁵, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with ☧ from beneath, in field IC XC.

Reverse: Bears the four-lined inscription with pellet beneath

+ΙhSӦS
XρISӦS
bΑΣΙΛϚϚ
bΑΣΙΛϚ

Ref.: DOC III/2, 651-52, A2.3.1-13.

1. Æ, Pl. I, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 405.

Variation 5 (976(?)-1030/35):

Obverse: +ЄMMA NOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with ☧ from beneath, in field IC XC.

Reverse: bears the four-lined inscription with pellet above and beneath, upper pellet is very faint.

+ΙhSӀS
XρISӀS
bΑΣΙΛϚϚ
bΑΣΙΛϚ

Ref.: DOC III/2, 652, A2.5.1-5.2.

2. Æ, Pl. I, dia. 34 mm, Inventory No. 396.
3. Æ, Pl. I, dia. 32 mm, Inventory No. 401.
4. Æ, Pl. I, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 398.

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⁴ Wool, linen or cotton tunics (χιτών), short or long, short-sleeved or long-sleeved, were the basic garment of most citizens of the empire (ODB 1991, 2127-2128).

⁵ Himation (ἵματον); a mantle, the Greek equivalent of the Roman pallium. This oblong outer garment of wool or linen was worn over the tunic. All of Byzantine representations of figures such as Christ, the apostles and prophets represented with himation (ODB 1991, 932).
Variation 8 (976(?)-1030/35)

Obverse: + ЄMMA NOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with from beneath, in field IC XC.

Reverse: bears the four-lined inscription with four pellet in cross form above and beneath.

+IHΣYS
XRISYS
bASILЄCH
bASILЄ

Ref.: DOC III, 653, A2.8.
5. Æ, Pl. I, dia. 32 mm, Inventory No. 1.
6. Æ, Pl. II, dia. 31 cm, Inventory No. 397.

Variation 24 (976(?)-1030/35)

Obverse: + ЄMMA NOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with from beneath, in field IC XC.

Reverse: bears the four-lined inscription with above and beneath.

+IHΣYS
XRISYS
bASILЄCH
bASILЄ

7. Æ, Pl. II, Inventory No. 2897.
8. Æ, Pl. II, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 1654.
9. Æ, Pl. II, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 404.
10. Æ, Pl. II, dia. 24 mm, Inventory No. 8.

Variation 32 (976(?)-1030/35)

Obverse: + ЄMMA NOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right...
hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with + from beneath, in field IC XC.

**Reverse:** bears the four-lined inscription with cross ornament + above and beneath.

+IhSΨS
XRISΨS
bASILЄΨ
bASILЄ

Ref.: DOC III/2, 663-664, A2.32.1-11.
11. Æ, Pl. III, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 399.
12. Æ, Pl. III, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 1853.

**Variation 39 (976(?)-1030/35)**

**Obverse:** + ΕΜΜΑ ΝΟVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with ♦ from beneath, in field IC XC.

**Reverse:** bears the four-lined inscription with ♦ above and beneath.

+IhSΨS
XRISΨS
bASILЄΨ
bASILЄ

13. Æ, Pl. III, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 400.
14. Æ, Pl. III, dia. 30 mm, Inventory No. 2.
15. Æ, Pl. III, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 31.
16. Æ, Pl. IV, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 403.

**Variation 42a (976(?)-1030/35)**

**Obverse:** + ΕΜΜΑ ΝΟVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with ♦ from beneath, in field IC XC.
Reverse: bears the four-lined inscription with above and beneath.
+İhSŞS
XRİŞŞS
bAŞİLЄ Ч
bAŞİLЄ
Ref.: DOC III/2, 670, A2.42a.
17. Æ, Pl. IV, dia. 30 mm, Inventory No. 1733.
18. Æ, Pl. IV, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 1729.

Variation 47 (976(?)-1030/35)
Obverse: + ÇMMA NOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with
nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right
hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with (?) from
beneath, in field IC XC.

Reverse: bears the four-lined inscription with above and beneath.
+İhSŞS
XRİŞŞS
bAŞİLЄ Ч
bAŞİLЄ
Ref.: DOC III/2, 671-672, A2.47.1-23.
19. Æ, Pl. IV, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 1734.
20. Æ, Pl. IV, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 1789.
21. Æ, Pl. V, Inventory No. 2734.

Unattributed Folles (976(?)-1042 (?))
Obverse: + ÇMMA NOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with
nimbus cross having with two pellets in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right
hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with (?) from beneath, in
field IC XC.

Reverse: bears the four-lined inscription with square shaped ornament (?)
above and beneath.
+İhSŞS
XRİŞŞS
bASILEΦ
bASILЄ
Ref.: DOC III/2, 648-675.
22. Æ, Pl. V, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 32.
23. Æ, Pl. V, dia. 24 mm, Inventory No. 9.
24. Æ, Pl. V, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 402
25. Æ, Pl. V, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 30. (Variation 42a?)

CLASS B (1030/35-1042):

Obverse: + ЕММА NOVHA, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with cross nimbus having □ in each arm and pellet in each upper quarter, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left holds book, with...

Reverse: Bears the cross on base and two steps, pellet each end of upper arms.
IS XS
bAS ILЄ
bAS ILЄ
Ref.: DOC III/2, 676-681, B.1-64.
26. Æ, Pl. VI, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 411.
27. Æ, Pl. VI, dia. 29 mm, Inventory No. 1852.
28. Æ, Pl. VI, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 1201.
29. Æ, Pl. VI, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 1732.
30. Æ, Pl. VI, dia. 23 mm, Inventory No. 1555.

CLASS C (1042 (?)-1050):

Obverse: + ЕММА NOVHA, bears three-quarter-length figure of Christ Antiphonetes⁶ facing, bearded, with cross nimbus having pellet in each arm, wearing

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⁶ An icon of Christ Antiphonetes (levatoris / guarantor), at the Church of the Khalkoprateia, famous for its miracles and the image is that of a standing, three-quarter length Christ, arms held close to his sides, with the palm of his right hand held up so as to face the viewer. An icon
tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in front of body, left hand holds book with on cover.

Reverse: bears in angles of jeweled cross with pellet at end of each arm.

IC XC
NI KA


31. Æ, Pl. VII, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 410.
32. Æ, Pl. VII, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 409.
33. Æ, Pl. VII, dia. 25 mm, Inventory No. 1463.
34. Æ, Pl. VII, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 10

CLASS E (1060):

Obverse: No inscription, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded with cross nimbus having one pellet in upright arm and two in each lateral arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised in blessing in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with on cover, from beneath. In field IC XC.

Reverse: bears the three-lined inscription and ornaments on above and beneath.

IS XS
bAS IL€
bAS IL€


35. Æ, Pl. VII, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 25.
36. Æ, Pl. VIII, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 2855.
37. Æ, Pl. VIII, dia. 26 mm, Inventory No. 29.
38. Æ, Pl. VIII, dia. 26 mm, Inventory No. 28.

of Christ Antiphonetes appears on Zoe’s coins and on other coins of the 11th century (ODB 1991, 439).
CLASS F (1060-1065):

Obverse: No inscription, bears seated on backless throne figure of Christ Hyperagathos facing, bearded with cross nimbus having pellet in each arm, wearing tunic and himation, right hand raised to side in blessing, left hand holds book with on cover by spine on knee, in field IC XC.

Reverse: bears the three-lined inscription and cross ornament — — — on above and — — — beneath.

IS XS
bAS IL€
bAS IL€

39. Æ, Pl. VIII, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 1730.

CLASS G (1065-1070):

Obverse: No inscription, bears the bust of Christ facing, bearded, with cross nimbus, wearing tunic and himation, right hand blessing inwards in sling of cloak, left hand holds scroll, in field, IC XC. Border of large pellets


40. Æ, Pl. VIII, dia. 31 mm, Inventory No. 27.
41. Æ, Pl. IX, dia. 28 mm, Inventory No. 1653.

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⁷ Several different icons of the Virgin Blakhernitissa (Βλαχερνίτισσα, Βλαχερνιώτισσα) are known to have existed in the monastery of Blakhemai. Coins and seals of the 11th century identify an orans figure of the Virgin hand outstretched, as the Blakhernitissa (ODB 1991, 2170).

⁸ Maphorion (μαϕόριου); a garment covering the head and shoulders, mentioned in papyri of the 4th-6th century. The Virgin’s maphorion or veil usually blue, Brown or purple may be decorated with gold dots or pellets in the form of a cross; the maphorion of Eve is generally red (ODB 1991, 1294).
CLASS I (1075-1080):

Obverse: No inscription, bears the bust of Christ facing, having long, slightly forked beard, cross nimbus with one pellet in each arm of cross, wearing tunic and himation, right hand blessing inwards in sling of cloak, left hand holds book with IC XC.

Reverse: No inscription, bears Latin cross with three pellets at each extremity, small cross at intersection and pellet with floral ornaments to left and right at base. Above, crescent to left and right.

Ref.: DOC III/2, 696-99, I.1-64.

42. Æ, Pl. IX, dia. 25 mm, Inventory No. 407.
43. Æ, Pl. IX, dia. 26 mm, Inventory No. 408.
44. Æ, Pl. IX, dia. 25 mm, Inventory No. 406.
45. Æ, Pl. IX, dia. 26 mm, Inventory No. 2336.
46. Æ, Pl. X, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 1773.
47. Æ, Pl. X, dia. 27 mm, Inventory No. 1205.
48. Æ, Pl. X, dia. 26 mm, Inventory No. 1202.

The Anonymous Folles have lots of samples in Museums and excavations in Turkey. However, there is a lack of research in Museum coin sections and a lack of information exchange of finds between excavations in Anatolia. In addition these, the most important problem is that there are few Byzantine numismatists studying in Turkey and Byzantine numismatic studies are at an early stage. Byzantine numismatic studies have to need more academic research in Universities and Museums and numismatic studies have to go together with the studies of Byzantine iconography to solve the problem about identification of coins.
Plate I
CLASS A2
Variation 3

Variation 5

1

2

3

4
Variation 8

Plate II

Variation 24

96 Sanat Tarihi Dergisi
A Group Anonymous Folles From Kuva-yi Milliye Museum, Balikesir/Turkey

Plate III
Variation 32
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Variation 39

Plate IV

98 Sanat Tarihi Dergisi
A Group Anonymous Folles From Kuva-yi Milliye Museum, Balikesir/Turkey

Variation 42a

17

Variation 47

18

19

20
Plate VI
CLASS B
Plate VII
CLASS C

31

32

33

34
A Group Anonymous Folles From Kuva-yi Milliye Museum, Balıkesir/Turkey

CLASS E

Plate VIII

CLASS F

Sanat Tarihi Dergisi 103
A Group Anonymous Folles From Kuva-yi Milliye Museum, Balikesir/Turkey

Plate X

Sanat Tarihi Dergisi 105
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