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*Hans Strahm †*

In Bern verstarb im Juli 1978 unser langjähriges Vorstandsmitglied Prof. Dr. Hans Strahm. Der Verstorbene hatte mit einer Arbeit über Leibnitz doktriert, wandte sich dann aber intensiv der Erforschung der mittelalterlichen Stadtgeschichte Berns zu, in der er sich wie kaum ein zweiter auskannte. Als langjähriger Direktor der Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek Bern gelang es ihm, dieses Institut schrittweise zu modernisieren und einer vermehrten Benützung zuzuführen. Junge Bibliothekare wußte er in diesen Be-

ruf einzuführen und dafür zu begeistern. Unserer Gesellschaft diente er von 1946 bis 1974 als Bibliothekar und war vor allem für den immer umfangreicher werdenden Schriftentausch verantwortlich, der durch die Stadtbibliothek Bern besorgt wird. Sein besonnener Rat, oft in humorvoller Weise vorgebracht, war im Vorstand sehr geschätzt und bewies, daß er mit den Geschäften der Gesellschaft gut vertraut war. Die Schweizerische Numismatische Gesellschaft hat Hans Strahm viel zu verdanken und wird sein Andenken in Ehren halten. *Red.*

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DER BÜCHERTISCH – LECTURES

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*Fred S. Kleiner and Sydney P. Noe, The Early Cistophoric Coinage. Numismatic Studies No. 14. The American Numismatic Society. New York 1977, 129 pp., 38 plates.*

The coin called since antiquity the cistophorus is often considered to be the ugliest of all Greek coins. Greek die engravers contributed many masterly studies of animals even on very small coins, but the coiling serpents on the cistophori leaping out from the *cista mystica* on the obverse and entwining the bow case on the reverse do not belong to their best achievements. The coin types are however interesting and are connected with the cults of Dionysos (obverse) and Herakles (reverse).

The cistophori were minted in several cities within the Pergamene kingdom; they were maintained in circulation for a long time and were of great economic and historical importance. Though the cistophoric coinage has attracted attention since the 18th century and its weight standard, origin and relation to the Attalid silver coinage of Attic weight have been much discussed, it has also been neglected in so far as there has been no corpus comprising the full material and based on die studies.

The present work fills the gap for the early period of the coinage. It was started by Sidney P. Noe, who in a number of articles documented his interest in the subject, and after his death in 1969 continued by Fred S. Kleiner.

The excellently commented catalogue comprises a large material distributed among seven cities: Pergamon, Ephesos, Tralleis, Synnada, Sardeis, Apameia and Laodikeia.

The majority of the coins are tetradrachms of a low weight, 12.60 g (957 specimens). The smaller denominations consist of didrachms and drachms and are comparatively few, 43 and 26 specimens respectively. For each mint the material is arranged in series according to die sequences and symbols.

The obverse dies are numbered for all series belonging to the same mint, but the reverse dies are numbered only within the series. It means that specimens with the same numeral and letter often occur in different series. To avoid confusion the series number must thus always be quoted. The plates are photographed from casts and are of an even and good quality. One disadvantage is that the illustrated coins do not have the same numbers on the plates as in the catalogue – as is the case in most modern numismatic works – but are numbered independently which makes the relation between catalogue and plates less easy to survey. A map would have been useful but is a less important lack than the missing index.

The sharing of common obverse dies and symbols among Pergamon, Sardeis, Synnada and Apameia leads Kleiner to the conclusion that all coins for these cities were minted at the royal mint of Pergamon and that consequently the entire early coinage was concentrated in the three main mints of Pergamon, Ephesos and Tralleis. Whether this interesting suggestion will be commonly accepted remains to be seen. The material enables the authors to demonstrate that Pergamon and not Ephesos was the most important of the early mints and that the first series struck at Pergamon has a magistrate mark ΑΣ or symbol thyrsos with ΑΣ which occur also in the last group VII of the