

# Observations on the signature Kim

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## OBSERVATIONS ON THE SIGNATURE KIM

H. Bartlett Wells

A coin published in the SNG von Aulock was described as follows<sup>1</sup>:

«Karische Dynasten

Kim . . . (unbekannter Dynast, etwa gleichzeitig mit Hekatomnos).

Vs.: Vorderteil eines l. liegenden (oder springenden?) Stieres. Rs.: Vorderteil eines l. liegenden Stieres; ΚΙΜ; rundes Incusum.

AR 2,24. Aus dem gleichen Fund wie das vorhergehende Stück» (fig. 3).

The preceding specimen in question, No. 8044, is a coin of similar weight and appearance with an inscription EKA attributed to Hecatomnus (395-377 B.C.).

The SNG von Aulock photographs show that the reverses of these coins are very similar to each other. Aside from the different inscriptions, the only conspicuous

<sup>1</sup> Fasc. 17 (1968), 8045.

distinction is the square incuse for No. 8044, but a round incuse for No. 8045. A close relationship, both in time and in space, appears an inevitable conclusion. This is moreover backed up by the two coins' being part of the same find.

List No. 296 of *Münzen und Medaillen AG Basel* (January 1969) presented the following coin (fig. 2):

«23 KIM . . . , Dynaste de Carie vers 380. Tétroble. Protomé de taureau à g. Rv. KIM. Même type, le taureau regarde de face. 2,26 g. SNG von Aulock 8045. Rare.»

The coin is very similar to the von Aulock one, but so far as comparison of the photographs allows one to judge, it would appear that both dies are slightly different. The reverse of the Basle coin seems to show no punch traces that would allow one to speak of an «incuse» whether round or square, and the protome of the bull on that side seems shorter from left to right than in the von Aulock case; it has almost no dewlap, or fall of loose skin at the throat. Since I cannot discern the letters KIM in the illustration, I am unable to compare their positioning with that in the SNG von Aulock illustration. As for the obverses, the apparent differences in the images are so slight that I should not be prepared, on the basis of the photographs, to argue that they cannot be from the same die, yet it may be possible that they are not.

On the basis of the foregoing, the coinage of the authority who signs KIM was of sufficient duration to require two reverse dies and perhaps two obverse dies as well.

Another KIM specimen has now come to light. It was acquired from a dealer at a numismatic convention in Washington, D.C., at some time between 1970 and 1980. The dealer had attributed the coin to Samos on the basis of B. V. Head, *HN*, page 604, line 6.

A description of the coin is as follows (figs. 1, 1a):

AR 2,23 g ↑ ←

Obv.: Protome of bovine animal heading right, off-center toward the left of the flan.

Rev.: KIM. Protome of a mature bull left.

The reverse is very similar to that on the two coins mentioned above.

No evidence of incuse striking remains at the edges of this flan of small diameter, and the designation of the side bearing the inscription as being the reverse or punch-die side is merely a reflection of what is usual in the light of the presence of the inscription there, and of what the incuses show to have been the case in the two earlier specimens.

In the new coin the bull of the reverse die shows an image perhaps identical with that in the Basel photograph. Although it is not possible to compare the positioning of the two inscriptions, the two reverses may actually be from the same die. On the new coin the KIM inscription is plainly higher than it is on the von Aulock example, and the bull image is shorter from muzzle to cut-off.

The obverse, however, is a completely new one in that the protome enters the coin field from the left edge and advances toward the right. I call the obverse type a «bovine animal» because it is not certain this is a mature bull. One gets a good general impression of the animal's motion and proportions from looking at the coin without magnification. When the image is enlarged, as in the accompanying photographs, it is easier to see that the head of the animal is slightly dished or concave throughout, and that there is some question as to whether it faces toward the observer, or in the direction the animal is moving. My preference is for the latter alternative, and on the assumption the head faces right I believe that I discern at the top of the head a very small horn to the right side and an ear to the left side. The muzzle and jaw are small, and the whole head is lean and lacking in flesh.



1a



1



2



3



As for other features of the image, the one visible foreleg seems anatomically inept and there appears to be a considerable and very flaccid dewlap. Wear on the coin has been slight, and peculiarities such as this dewlap, the concave head, and the strangely angled foreleg do not seem to arise from the coin's having been battered. The oddities evidently lie in the die, which strikes me as having been fairly reflected in the present state of the coin. I think the animal may be an ox, a cow, or an immature specimen of either sex, rather than a bull. This is a somewhat subjective impression, and other observers might prefer to regard the head as facing, and thus as showing two small horns but no ears, or also to conclude that the animal is a bull, as shown in so many other coin types in the region and period.

The appearance of the new coin shows that for the coins of KIM there were not only one and perhaps two reverse dies and two obverse dies, all parts of a single issue. There was also another issue, with an entirely different obverse die and with a reverse die the image on which may be almost the same as in the Basle specimen but which is less like that on the von Aulock one.

A fleeting comparison with a further coin of Caria may be worth while. SNG Lockett No. 2918 has a completely different reverse from these KIM coins, but an obverse of configuration similar to that in the new KIM coin, the protome of a rather grotesque bovine animal (probably a bull) heading right from the left edge of the flan. It weights 2,25 g and is called perhaps a quarter-siglos, whereas the von Aulock and Basle coins are called tetrobols. It comes from the Pozzi collection<sup>2</sup>. It was assigned to Samos at one time<sup>3</sup> but at the date of the Lockett sale catalog<sup>4</sup> it was assigned to a Carian dynast, uncertain, circa 5th century B.C.

The point of introducing this coin is to show that the obverse type with bovine protome heading right was familiar in Caria on more than one coin of the same dimensions and weight and of about the same date, but that the protome right seems to have been a little earlier, if anything, than the protome left; for the reverse on the Lockett coin, a bull's head right (but of earlier style) justifies a date within the late 5th century.

<sup>2</sup> Public Sale Naville 1 (1921), 2549.

<sup>3</sup> BMC 24 and 25.

<sup>4</sup> Glendining, Feb. 21-23, 1961, 2393.

So far as subject matter is concerned, the new coin may be regarded as a midway step from the bovine protome heading right, which was already at 400 B.C. and continued long after that to be of markedly Samian antecedents, to the protome heading left which is used on its reverse and on both sides of the EKA coin SNG von Aulock 8044, the KIM coin SNG von Aulock 8045, and the KIM coin Basle List 296 No. 23. For this reason I believe that dating the new coin around 395 B.C. is a better start than dating it to later years of rule in Caria by Hecatomnus.

In other respects the position of KIM relative to the sway of Hecatomnus as satrap is a matter almost entirely of conjecture on the basis of the information available at present. One thing seems likely, and that is that the similarity of his tetrobol types to those of Hecatomnus betokens sympathy rather than enmity. One may speculate that as the authority of Tissaphernes in Lydia and Caria was ending in 395 B.C. amid turmoil and confusion there might have been a brief division of dominion before Hecatomnus completely established himself as Persian-approved successor to Tissaphernes. The two men may as allies first have issued coins with the same reverse types but with their separate names – this new coin. But Hecatomnus was a grandee, and KIM evidently was not. So soon KIM, retaining his own signature, adopted the obverse types of Hecatomnus – the von Aulock and Basle coins. Finally his name, too, disappears. This is perhaps a little easier to believe than the alternative that comes to mind – that as Hecatomnus around 380 commenced to fall out with the Great King of Persia, a coinage of a petty rival KIM diverged in an independent direction from his – one might have expected such a rival to throw himself straight into the arms of the Persian king, in the hope of receiving from him the satrapy, and to use either Persian coins or ones of markedly Persian inclination in their subject-matter. In addition, the discord between Hecatomnus and the Persian king was handled with relative subtlety, and Hecatomnus managed to transmit his satrapy to his own sons. All in all, I am inclined to opt mildly for a date circa 395 B.C. for all of these Carian bull-protome coins.

In all of the foregoing it is assumed that the assignment of these coins to Caria is correct, and that the reading KIM (rather than retrograde, or with the M as a recumbent sigma) is called for at a date just after 400 B.C. If the name KIM is of purely Greek origin (which is not inevitable), the only likely extension of this abbreviation seems to be KIMΩN.

## VERSILBERTE PORTRÄTS AUF KLEINASIATISCHEN MÜNZEN DER RÖMISCHEN KAISERZEIT

Wolfram Weiser

Einige kleinasiatische Aes-Münzen der römischen Kaiserzeit weisen ein Phänomen auf, das offenbar bisher nicht beachtet oder nicht richtig verstanden wurde: Sie sind stellenweise versilbert worden.

Drei Beispiele seien vorgeführt.

- 1 (Abb. 1). Tetrassarion, 20,50 g, Stempelstellung 350°, geprägt unter Septimius Severus (193–211) in der Stadt Pogla in Pisidien