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THE UNPUBLISHED DIRHAMS FROM THE POLISH EARLY-MEDIEVAL HOARDS

The present paper includes the description of 25 fragments of dirhams found within the last ten years in Poland. Fifteen from among them are included in a large early-medieval silver hoard¹, discovered by chance during the building operations in Nowa Huta, a city-quarter of Kraków (Cracov); the archaeological researches undertaken in the close environment of the place where the hoard in question has been found, proved the existence of an early-medieval settlement in this area. These fragments, though not too well preserved, and though they form only a small part of the hoard which includes them, deserve a special attention for the following reasons: 1. The Arabic silver forms a very rare component in early medieval silver hoards from Małopolska (Little Poland)². 2. From among the 10 registered finds

¹ Comp. below, p. 110 and Note 4.

² It is only in ten from among the 70 known early medieval finds unearthed in this area that we find dirhams which in most cases are scarce in number (one or two specimens). Only two sets included considerable quantities of dirhams: 1^o — the hoard from Przemyśl which has gone lost and has not been described (comp. M. Haisig, R. Kiersnowski, J. Reyman, *Wczesnośredniowieczne skarby srebrne z Małopolski, Śląska, Warmii i Mazur*, p. 24, N° 43); 2^o — the hoard from Czechów near Lublin: this set has been found on the territory which, though historically and administratively appertenant to Małopolska, was through the trade routes more closely connected economically with the areas of Eastern Europe as well as with Central and North Poland, and thus it cannot be treated equally with other

from Małopolska, we have sufficient informations only on five of them. 3. These dirhams belong to the hoard which indisputedly reached the hands of the archaeologists. 4. The hoard is connected with early-medieval colonization on this territory.

The remaining 10 specimens which we shall describe below are loose finds unearthed during the archaeological excavations on the territory of early-medieval burial grounds and castles in Pomerania (Kętrzyno, Bardy, Świelubie) and in Silesia (Wszemirów), and thus in the areas where the Arabic coins occur considerably more often. The mentioned specimens have been delivered to us for description by the institutions which take care of archaeological researches, and for which they were an important factor helping to date both the relics which accompanied them and sites where they have been found.

We describe the dirhams according to the scheme which we were serving ourselves of in our preceding works (publications) of similar kind³. Besides, we insert the essential informations on each find as well as the concerning it, up to date literature.

KRAKÓW — NOWA HUTA

Unearthed: 1961.

Circumstances: during the building operations.

Kind of find: hoard.

Composition: dirhams (15 fragments), European coins, ornaments, raw silver⁴.

finds of early-medieval coins from Małopolska (comp. T. Lewicki in: A. Czapkiewicz, T. Lewicki, S. Nosek, M. Czapkiewicz, *Skarb dirhemów arabskich z Czechowa*, Warszawa—Wrocław 1957, p. 241—247).

³ Comp. A. Kmietowicz, F. Kmietowicz, *Dirhems de trésors polonais de Haut Moyen-Âge, inédits*, „Folia Orientalia“, vol. IX: 1968, p. 306—319.

⁴ Apart from the 15 fragments of Arabic coins described in our paper, the hoard included 609 European coins (English, Danish, Italian, German, Polish, Czech, Hungarian and s. c. cross deniers), 118 fragments of ornaments, as well as raw silver and plumb, ca 2000 g altogether. Comp. Haisig, Kiersnowski, Reyman, *Wczesnośredniowieczne skarby...*, p. 19—21, N^o 27.

Description of coins

1. Mint:?, Date:?, Ruler: Isma'il ibn Aḥmad (Samanids).

Obv.:

Rev.: —

Slightly visible outlines of letters
(three legends).

— اسماعيل

Margin: outlines of letters.

Border 1: single, linear.

Weight: 0.33 g Size: ca 1/6 of a dirham.

Remark:

The mint date of the fragment has been fixed on the basis of the regnal years of the emir (278—295 H. = 892—908 A.D.).

2. Mint:?, Date:?, Ruler: Naṣr ibn Aḥmad (Samanids).

Obv.:

Rev.: —

Preserved the beginning letters
(šahāda and inner margin)

رسول
المقتدر
نصر بن احمد

Outer margin: cut.

Margin: cut.

The specimen is very well preserved and legible.

Weight: 0.43 g Size: ca 1/6 of a dirham.

Remark:

The fragment has been struck between 301—320 H. = 913—932 A.D. This date has been suggested by the regnal years both of the emir (301—331 H. = 913—943 A.D.) and the caliph (295—320 H. = 908—932 A.D.).

3. Mint:?, Date:?, Ruler: Naṣr ibn Aḥmad (Samanids).

Obv.:

Rev.: —

Šahāda

محمد

Marginal legends: cut.

رسول الله
الراضي بالله
نصر بن احمد

Border 1: single, linear.

Margin: cut.

The fragment has been cut out of the central (middle) part of the coin. On one of its edges deep incision.

Weight: 0.60 g. Size: ca 1/5 of a dirham.

Remark:

The fragment has been struck between 322—329 H. = 934—940 A.D. This date has been suggested by the regnal years both of the emir (301—331 H. = 913—943 A.D.) and the caliph (322—329 H. = 934—940 A.D.)

4. Mint:?, Date:?, Ruler: Nūḥ ibn Naṣr (Samanids).

Obv.: Rev.: —

Separate words and letters from three legends preserved.

الـ[ستك]افى
نواح بن نصر

Border 1: double, linear.

Below: a trace of ornament.

Margin: illegible.

Border 1: single, linear.

Border 2: single, linear.

The fragment bears the traces of having been broken. On the edge small incision.

Weight: 0.56 g. Size: ca 1/6 of a dirham.

Remark:

The years of the caliph's reign (333—334 H. = 944—946 A.D.) would permit to date our fragment. However, we know from the history of Samanid minting that even for a many years after the abdication of this caliph (al-Mustakfi bi'llāh), the coins bore his name⁵. This makes us inclined to accept the first regnal year of the caliph and the last one of the emir as limitary terms of its mintage (333—343 H. = 944—945 A.D.).

⁵ Comp. A. Kmietowicz, W. Kubiak, *Wczesnośredniowieczny skarb srebrny z Zalesia, pow. Stupca*, vol. I *Monety arabskie*, Wrocław—Warszawa—Kraków 1969, p. 287—288.

5. Mint:?, Date:?, Ruler: Nūḥ ibn Naṣr (Samanids).

Obv.: Rev.: —

Separate words and letters from the three legends preserved.

Border 2: single, linear.

الله...

ان نصر —

Margin: several letters.

Border 1: double, linear.

The inscription executed in characteristic kind of script. Untypical borders.

Weight: 0.62 g. Size: ca 1/5 of a dirham.

Remark:

The letters preserved on the obverse (inner margin) include probably the name of the mint. It may be the part of the incorrectly written name الشاش *aš-Šāš* (ساس) with the article omitted, or the name نسابور *Nisābūr* (abbreviated?). The regnal years of the emir 331—343 H. = 942—954 A.D. fix the date of the coin. The name of the caliph except for its second part (probably الله *W'llāh*) illegible.

6. Mint: Samarkand, Date:?, Ruler:? (Samanids).

Obv.: Rev.: Several letters from both legends.

The final part of šahāda preserved. Below: ع

Inner margin: — سر مرقد سنة —

Outer margin: — ومثد فرح —

Border 1: single, linear.

The fragment is round in shape, cut out from the central part of the coin.

Weight: 0.48 g. Size: ca 1/6 of a dirham.

Remark:

The name of the mint, as well as the types of inscriptions and ornaments (borders and letters ع) permit to count the coin in question among the Samanid dirhams.

14. Mint:?, Date:?, Ruler:?

On the obverse, a broad border preserved. On the reverse traces of letters from the inner marginal legend and a single linear border.
Weight: 0.27 g Size: small fragment of a dirham.

15. Mint:?, Date:?, Ruler:?

On the obverse — traces of letters (central legend). The reverse effaced.

A crack on the edge.

Weight: 0.24 g Size: small fragment of a dirham.

WSZEMIRÓW⁶

distr. Trzebnica

Unearthed: 1966.

Circumstances: during the archaeological excavations⁷.

Kind of find: a grave-find.

Composition: 3 fragments of dirhams⁸.

Description of coins.

1. Mint: Samarkand, Date:?, Ruler: Isma'il or Naṣr ibn Aḥmad (Samanids).

Obv.: —	Rev.: —
—	—
شريك له	—
ع	—
—	الله (?)
—	أحمد

⁶ This is the second find of Arabic coins from this locality. Comp. Haisig, Kiersnowski, Reyman, *Wczesnośredniowieczne skarby...*, p. 62, N° 56.

⁷ The excavations managed by Establishment of Silesia's Archaeology (Zakład Archeologii Śląska) in Wrocław.

⁸ In the close environment of coins there were fragments of clay-pots and relics of burnt bones.

Inner margin: — الدرهم بسم الله — Margin: — بالله دى ودين الحق —

Outer margin: — بعد — Border 1: single, linear.

Border 1: single, linear.

Border 2: single, linear.

The inscriptions well legible. A crack and a small incisions on the edge.

Weight: 0.68 g Size: ca 1/4 of a dirham.

Remark:

On the fragment only the second element of the emir's name أحمد preserved. Since the mint name and the type of the coin point to its Samanid origin, we suggest that it might have been the emirs Isma'il ibn Aḥmad (279—295 H. = 892—907 A.D.) or Naṣr ibn Aḥmad (301—331 H. = 913—942 A.D.).

2. Mint:?, Date:?, Ruler: Naṣr ibn Aḥmad (Samanids).

Obv.: — Rev.: —

شريك
ع

المقتدر
نصر بن أحمد
س

Marginal legends: several letters respectively preserved.

Margin: outlines of letters.

Border 3: double, linear.

Border 1: double, linear.

Border 2: single, linear (broad).

The edge uneven, the surface of the coin — porous.

Weight: 0.84 g Size: ca 1/4 of a dirham.

Remark:

On the basis of the preserved names of emir Naṣr ibn Aḥmad and caliph al-Muqtadir bi'llāh we assume that the coin in question has been struck in the years 301—320 H. = 913—932 A.D.⁹. The letters ع which occur below the obverse area, appear on the coin struck in 317 H. in Andarāba and described by Tiesenhäusen¹⁰. These letters, Tiesenhäusen considers after Tornberg to be an abbreviation from عدل 'adil, and رشيد rašīd, the words indicating the proper weight of the coin. However, on the dirham

⁹ Comp. above, p. 111, nr 2, Remark.

¹⁰ W. W. Tiesenhäusen, *O samanidskich monetach*, S. Petersburg 1853, p. 169.

4. Mint:?, Date:?, Ruler:?

Separate letters from central legends of the obverse and reverse preserved. On the reverse: border 1 — double, stringlet.

Weight: 0.24 g Size: small fragment of a dirham.

Remark:

Judging from the type of inscriptions and ornaments, it is a fragment of an early-Abbasid dirham.

5. Mint:?, Date: 2..., Ruler:?

Obv.:

Central legend: cut.

Inner margin: وما[تتين] —

Outer margin: [بصر الله] —

Border 2: single, linear.

The fragment consist of two parts fitting to each other.

Weight: 0.32 g Size: ca 1/8 of a dirham.

Remark:

Judging from the preserved part of the date وما[تتين] and two-hundred, the dirham in question has been struck after 200 H. = after 815 A.D. This supposition is also supported by the presence of outer marginal legend on the obverse¹⁴.

BARDY

distr. Kołobrzeg

Unearthed: 1962.

Circumstances: during the archaeological excavations¹⁵.

Kind of find: loose find.

Composition: 1 fragment of a dirham.

¹⁴ H. Nützel, *Katalog...*, p. 194.

¹⁵ The excavations on the territory of an early-medieval castle managed by the Establishment for the Archaeology of Great Poland and Pomerania (comp. above, Note 12); comp. also A. Kmietowicz, F. Kmietowicz, *Dirhems de trésors polonais...* „Folia Orientalia“, vol. IX, pp. 318—319.

Description of the coin.

Mint:?, Date:?, Ruler:?

Obv.:

Traces of šahāda.

Rev.:

(?) لله
محمد[رسول]

.....—

Margin: هذا الد رهم —

Margin: — رس[ول] الله ارسله بالهدى

Weight: 0.96 g

Size: ca 1/3 of a dirham.

Remark:

The lack of the outer marginal legend on the obverse suggests that the coin must have been struck before 200 H. = 815 A.D. Type of the coin: early-Abbasid.

ŚWIELUBIE

distr. Kołobrzeg

Unearthed: 1968.

Circumstances: during the archaeological excavations¹⁶.

Kind of find: grave-find.

Composition: 1 fragment of a dirham.

Description of the coin

Mint:?, Date:?, Ruler:?

Obv.:

A part of šahāda preserved.

Rev.:

محمد[رسول]
الله

Marginal legend (or legends)

Margin: cut.

— cut.

The inscriptions very slightly visible. Badly preserved.

Weight: 0.28 g

Size: small fragment of a dirham.

¹⁶ The excavations managed by the Establishment for the Archaeology of Great Poland and Pomerania in Poznań (comp. above Note 12). Comp. also A. Kmietowicz, F. Kmietowicz, *Dirhems de trésors polonais...* „Folia Orientalia“, vol. IX, pp. 317—318.

Remark:

This is probably the fragment of an Abbasid dirham from the turn of the II-nd and III-rd cc. H. = beginning of the IX-th c. A.D.

On the reverse graffiti  made with a sharp tool¹⁷.

¹⁷ Ulla S. Linder-Welin, *Graffiti on oriental coins in Swedish Viking Age Hoards*, „Meddelanden från Lunds Universitets Historiska Museum“, Lund 1956, pp. 149—171; the graffiti resembling a runic inscription appeared also on the dirham from Bardy distr. Kołobrzeg, described by A. Kmietowicz, F. Kmietowicz, *Dirhems de trésors polonais...* „Folia Orientalia“, vol. IX, p. 319.

Я. Р. ДАШКЕВИЧ, Э. ТРЫЯРСКИ

АРМЯНО-КЫПЧАКСКИЙ ДОКУМЕНТ ИЗ КОНСТАНТИНОПОЛЯ 1618 Г.

В отличие от опубликованных раньше на страницах восточноведческих изданий кыпчакско-польских билингв из львовских собраний¹, сегодняшняя публикация имеет несколько особый оттенок. Уникальный характер билингвы определяется тем, что документ 1618 г. — единственный до сих пор известный письменный памятник на армяно-кыпчакском языке, составленный вне пределов средневековой Речи Посполитой, вне пределов существовавших на ее территории армянских колоний. Написанный в Константинополе документ, удостоверенный подписями пятерых армянских купцов, является важным свидетельством того, что и далеко за пределами довольно узкого, по-видимому, в первой половине XVII в. ареала армяно-кыпчакского языка, можно было найти лиц, владевших этим языком и даже составлявших документы на нем.

Итак, в Центральном государственном историческом архиве СССР во Львове² хранится следующий документ на армяно-кыпчакском языке 1618 г. и современный ему перевод на польский язык.

А. Армяно-кыпчакский текст

1. Anun A[sdudzô]y
- 2 zamanında x[a]čk[o] sérépk[o]viç neçik k'arvan bašinın natênças
barça
- 3 ioldaşlardan tanlangan k'elip stimb[olga] d[iar]n 12 Iuni biz aşaya
- 4 iazılğanlar vlaşnıy xollarımız bila zéznavat étip bériyirbiz
- 5 bu atéstacıyanı p[a]n ivaşk'o iakub oylu vartérisoviçn'in

¹ См. „Rocznik Orientalistyczny“, XXXIII, 1, с. 77—96; и XXXIII, 2, с. 67—107.

² В дальнейшем ЦДИА.