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Uncatalogued variants of Bulgarian medieval coins (14th - 15th c.) (Abstract)

Vladimir Ovcharov

In the last few years, several publications appeared that describe new monetary types and unknown details of the images on Bulgarian medieval coins. They refuted the impression that the subject has been exhausted. New results were published of the archaeometric analyses of medieval alloys that were used by the coiners. This article discusses several unknown monetary variants and comments on already known Bulgarian copper coins from the 14th and 15th centuries.

The coinages of Tsar Michael III Shishman Asen are among the most discussed in Bulgarian numismatics. The coin of this ruler that is presented here is engraved in Palaiologan style with an unknown monogram that consists of the letters АД and is placed in the lower left side, next to the tamga. The coinages of Tsar Ivan Alexander were among the most copious and also typologically most diverse.

This impression is confirmed by two unknown monetary types of the ruler, discussed in the article. Like the coinages of Ivan Alexander, those of Ivan Sratsimir offer considerable typological diversity. This paper discusses new variants of type VII. Recently, K. Dochev published a new monetary type of the ruler (monogram / mantled bust of saint). Based on new finds of coins, the author reconsiders the device on the reverse. The new type that is presented is actually the prototype of the type 'monogram / bust of Christ with two angels'.

There is a large group of copper coins from the second half of the 14th and the early 15th century that could be described as imitative. They were issued in order to satisfy the growing monetary exchange in the kingdom. The engraver's work is so poor that in most cases it is not possible to distinguish meaningful devices and legends, which

makes their study very difficult. As K. Dochev rightly commented, at present there is only a preliminary typological characterization that would be expanded and specified in the future in terms of subjects, chronology, and topography. Having in mind the words of the prominent numismatist, this author aimed at shedding more light on unknown aspects of this coinage, based on newly collected data. Most comprehensive descriptions are offered for the uncatalogued monetary variants, as well as specifying details about already known types, so

that the scholars could make most adequate use of them. The respective photographs and drawings are the most accessible source of information for certain coinages. Their publication results in an increased interest to these coins, more rare specimens were discovered, and new variants were distinguished. For the descriptions, this author followed the typology and chronology of the issues in K. Dochev's *Catalogue of Bulgarian medieval coins of the 13th - 14th centuries: types, variants, prices* (2009).

д-р Владимир Овчаров, специалист
на свободна практика
vl.ovtcharov@yahoo.com

Vladimir Ovcharov, PhD,
freelance expert
vl.ovtcharov@yahoo.com