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## Controversial coinages in Dobrudzha (14th c.) (Abstract)

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Until now, historical sources failed to provide convincing evidence for the rule and the coinage of the “Dobrudzhan” rulers. In Bulgarian numismatic publications, all countermarks have been automatically attributed to the financial authorities of Dobrotitsa and Ioan Terter, without taking into account several studies of foreign scholars. The present article proposes other possible issuers, mostly among the authorized officials in the Tatar-Genoese colonies, responsible for countermarking. Recently, S. Avdev published several “new” types of countermarks on silver coins and suggested they are from the reign of “Dobrudzhan” rulers. The present article offers brief comments on these countermarks. A countermark of “square with five dots” type, struck on a Grosch of the type Ivan Alexander

with his son Michael Asen (Fig. 1 1), was identified as “Dobrudzhan” by S. Avdev. The author had the chance to compare the countermark with other similar countermarks on medieval Genoese-Tatar coins. This type is widespread in various versions (Fig. 1 2-3). Recently, Yu. Boreisha and A. Kazarov proved that the countermark is “Lithuanian”. The countermark “T”, struck on a dirham of Khan Abdullah, was attributed by S. Avdev to the rule of Ioan Terter (Fig. 1 4). Coins with several variants of the countermark “T” (Fig. 1. 5-6) are well known among the Tatar-Genoese issues of Crimea and in my opinion it could be more convincingly identified as a “Tatar” countermark.

The article also discusses the coins with a large letter “Д”, published by T. Gerasimov, who read

on the obverse the name of Dobrotitsa, and the mint of Kaliakra on the reverse (Fig. 2, 1). The apparent stylistic closeness and the similarities with the metric characteristics of some Genoese-Tatar coins make me think that one cannot exclude a possible reattribution to another issuer. It is beyond doubt that the probable “Dobrudzhan” issuer was inspired by a type of foliar of Kaffa (tamga „Tama” / legend CARA) (Figs. 2 2-3). Having in mind

some specifics of the style and the inscriptions on the folars of Kaffa, as well as some countermarks in the region, one could propose a different identification. Possibly, the “Dobrudzhan” type was a Genoese-Tatar coin, issued in an unknown mint in the domain of the Dobrudzhan rulers or in its immediate surroundings. An unidentified silver Grosch with monogram “T” is also presented, but its issuer remains disputable (Fig. 5).