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Naqlun 2007 : Numismatic Note

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NAQLUN 2007: NUMISMATIC NOTE

Barbara Lichočka*

Archaeological excavations carried out in 2007 in Hermitage 87 belonging to the western group of anchorite complexes brought to light three bronze coins of Late Roman date.

1. Nd.07.209 [Fig. 1]; findspot: E.87.4, courtyard surface
Second half of 4th century, Valentinian II(?), mint uncertain
AE 4, diam. 11 mm; weight 1.17 g
Obverse: Pearl-diademed, draped bust r. [D]N V(?) [
Reverse: Illegible
2. Nd.07.402 [Fig. 2]; findspot: E.87.1, floor, close to entrance
Reign of Arcadius, 395–408 or later, mint uncertain
AE 4, smaller module, diam. 8 mm, weight 0.39 g, die axis 6(?)
Obverse: Diademed, draped bust r.]AVG
Reverse: Cross. Inscription around cross: .XXSX(or T) X(or Y)..

The letter V in the legend on the obverse indicates the name of either Valentinian or Valens. The size and weight of the specimen appears to exclude an issue of Valentinian I or Valens. Judging by the size and proportions of the design, the coin may have been struck by Valentinian II in 378–392.

Only the terminal letters of the legend, most probably not divided, can be seen on the obverse. The inscription on the reverse is obscure and partly missing. It could be that we have here a case of imitation of the *Concordia Aug* type with cross, struck in the reign of Arcadius in a number of imperial mints, either with his name or with that of Honorius or Theodosius II. The coin is very small and light, which could also be construed as proof that it was indeed an



Fig. 1. Bronze coin Nd.07.209
(Photo W. Godlewski)



Fig. 2. Bronze coin Nd.07.402
(Photo W. Godlewski)

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imitation. Its weight is much less than the average weight characterizing AE 4 coins of this type dated to 395–408 (*LRBC* II: 90, nos 2221–2222, 95, nos 2541–2543, 99, nos 2594–2597, 102, nos 2806–2808); to 402–408 (*LRBC* II: 85, nos 1996–1999), or to 404–406 (*RIC* X: 249, nos 106–113, *CONCOR–DIA* AVG and 250, nos 114–122 *CONCORDIA* AVG, average weight 0.88 g; 250–251, nos 123–138, *CONCOR–DIA* AVGGG and nos 139–141, *CONCORDIA* NVGGG (*sic*), average weight 0.84 g).

3. Nd. 07.401 [*Fig. 3*]; findspot: E.87.01, floor
 Cast, diam. 9 mm, weight 0.34 g., die axis 1
 Prototype: Theodosius I, 378–388, Antioch (?), AE 4, smaller module
 Obverse: Diademed, draped bust r.
 DN TH[EO]DO–[SIV]S P [F AVG]
 Reverse: VOT/X/MVLT/XX within wreath; in exergue, AN[(?)]

The coin could have been produced in the end of the 4th century or later, in an unofficial workshop in Egypt. It was cast in a small terracotta mould prepared to make a number of copies simultaneously. The surface of the coin preserves traces of the two channels connecting the coin impressions in the mould, serving to pour

the metal during the casting process. Moulds with impressions of the obverse with the name of Theodosius (Dattari 1913: 495, 496, 497, 498, 502, 503, 506, 507; Krzyżanowska 1985[1986]: 48; Lichocka 1996: 198; Noeske 2001: 85) and also those with reverses of the VOT/X/MVLT/XX type (Dattari 1913: 495, 496, 498, 499, 502, 503) are well known. The coin which had been impressed in the mould in which the Naqlun specimen was cast belonged most probably to an AE 4, smaller module issue dated to 378–383 (*RIC* IX: 289, no. 56c) or 383–388 (*RIC* IX: 292, nos 65b–66).

Two casts were identified also in material from earlier excavations (Nd.90.128 and Nd.90.299, Lichocka [2001]: 168, 176 where Nd.97.299 was given by mistake, 180, Figs 7–8).

Archaeological research in 2004 on Kom A uncovered one Byzantine coin.

1. Nd.04.357 [*Fig. 4*], findspot: Fill by the north wall of Building J
 Justin I or Justinian I, 518–538, Constantinople (?)
 AE, *folles*, diam. 31 mm, die axis 5
 Obverse: Diademed, draped bust r.
 DN IVS[



Fig. 3. Bronze coin Nd.07.401
 (Photo W. Godlewski)



Fig. 4. Bronze coin Nd.04.357
 (Photo W. Godlewski)

Reverse: Large M; signs above and beneath, and flanking the letter M illegible; in exergue, CON (?)

The emperor cannot be identified from the bust on the obverse. The visible initial letters of the legend place the coin in the reign of Justin I, the period of joint reign

of Justin I and Justinian I or the single reign of Justinian I, but before 538/539, when *en face* representations of the emperor were introduced (*DO I*: 39–42, nos 813, 59–60, nos 10–11, 79–81, nos 28–32). The coin, especially the reverse, is pitted by corrosion.

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