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A Bronze Coin Hoard of Phaselis from Burdur Museum

Burdur Müzesi'ndeki Phaselis Kökenli Bir Bronz Sikke Definesi

Hüseyin KÖKER*

Abstract: This study examines a hoard of 59 bronze Phaselis coins preserved in two groups of 44 and 15 coins, respectively, which are considered to have belonged to the same hoard. The findspot of these two groups is unknown; they were brought to the museum by the same person on 4 August 1989 and were subsequently purchased by the museum. The coins in the hoard consist exclusively of bronze coins of Series 1 (Emission 2), Series 2 (Emissions 1–2), and Series 3 (Emissions 1–4, 6), minted by the city of Phaselis between the mid-3rd century BCE and 168 BCE. The latest emission represented in the hoard, Emission 3, ceased to be minted in 168 BCE, while Series 4, which is not represented in the hoard, began to be minted in 167 BCE. From this date onwards, coins of Emission 3 began to receive countermarks depicting a lyre; however, no such examples are represented in the hoard. Consequently, it can be suggested that the hoard was buried in 168 BCE or shortly thereafter.

Keywords: Phaselis, Lykia, Bronze Coin, Coin Hoard, Burdur Museum

Öz: Bu çalışma, Burdur Müzesi sikke koleksiyonuna kayıtlı, biri 44 diğeri 15 adet bronz Phaselis sikkesinden oluşan ve aynı gruba ait oldukları düşünülen toplam 59 sikkelik bir defineyi ele almaktadır. Buluntu yeri bilinmeyen bu iki parça halindeki grup aynı kişi tarafından 4 Ağustos 1989 tarihinde müzeye getirilmiş ve müze tarafından satın alınmıştır. Definedeki sikkelerin tümü Phaselis kenti tarafından MÖ 3. yüzyılın ortaları ile MÖ 168 yılı arasında darp edilen Seri 1 (Emisyon 2), Seri 2 (Emisyon 1-2) ve Seri 3 (Emisyon 1-4, 6) bronz sikkelerinden oluşmaktadır. Definedeki en geç tarihli emisyon olan Emisyon 3'ün basımı MÖ 168 yılında son bulmuş ve ardından MÖ 167 yılında definede temsil edilmeyen Seri 4 basılmaya başlanmıştır. Bu tarihten itibaren de Emisyon 3 sikkeleri üzerine lyr betimli kontrmark vurulmaya başlanmıştır ki bu örnekler definede temsil edilmemektedir. Bu nedenle de definenin gömü tarihinin MÖ 168 veya hemen sonrasında olduğu öne sürülebilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Phaselis, Lykia, Bronz Sikke, Sikke Definesi, Burdur Müzesi

In the course of my research at the Burdur Museum, which I have been conducting since 2005, I recorded two groups of bronze Phaselis coins. The first group consists of 44 coins, registered under inventory numbers 14635–14678, while the second group consists of 15 coins, registered under inventory numbers 14695–14709. As indicated by the museum inventory books, the person who brought these two groups of coins purchased on 4 August 1989 is a resident of Çamlık village (Kremna) in Bucak district, Burdur province, and has brought a considerable number of coins to the museum collection over the years. The coins brought to the museum by this person are predominantly Pisidian and from neighbouring regions (e.g. Phrygia, Pamphylia). In this context, it is noteworthy that the person in question also brought a group of coins from Perge, Selge, and Termessos, along with two groups of bronze Phaselis coins that are currently under examination. However, upon thorough examination of all the coins, it was determined that these two groups belonging to the city of Phaselis could potentially originate from the same hoard. The similar condition of the coins and the thin layer of soil with the same characteristics

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on them reinforce this view, while the different condition of the coins belonging to the other cities mentioned above suggests that they should not be considered part of the same group. Consequently, these two groups, comprising a total of 59 coins, will be evaluated below as a single hoard with accompanying details (it is also possible that these two groups are parts of a larger hoard). The fact that the hoard consists entirely of Phaselis coins may indicate a possible connection between the findspot and this city or its vicinity; however, since the exact location of the find is unknown, this possibility cannot be definitively proven.

Phaselis¹ is traditionally believed to have been founded in 690 BCE by Rhodian immigrants², was an important commercial center situated on the border of Lykia and Pamphylia³ with its sheltered harbors, as reflected in the prow of galley depicted on its coins. The city's minting activity began in the mid-6th century BCE and struck coins in two different metals: silver and bronze. The silver coins, which were produced in 11 series, date from circa 550 BCE to the 2nd century BCE, while the bronze coins, which were produced in 4 series, date from circa 221 BCE to the 2nd century BCE⁴. The Archaic Period coins (Series 1-3), dated between c. 550 BCE and the early 5th century BCE, consist of silver series minted to local and Persian standards, on which the city's ethnicon is not visible⁵. The coins of the Classical Period (Series 4-7), dated between the first quarter of the 5th century BCE and the 4th century BCE, the city's ethnicon in the form of ΦΑΣ begins to appear on the coins. These series were minted during the period when the city was a member of the Delos League, from which it later withdrew⁶. The Hellenistic coins, dated from the mid-3rd century BCE to the 1st century BCE, consist of four autonomous silver series (Series 8-11) and four bronze series (Series 1-4). The first three of these silver series are local and Attic standard, with the first series minted under Ptolemaic rule and the other three series minted during the autonomous period after Ptolemaic rule. Following these series, during the city's period of membership in the Lykian League, League Coins and Pseudo-League Coins were put into circulation. The city's bronze coins were minted in four series, the first of which was the silver Series 8, the second was Series 9 of the posthumous tetradrachms of Aleksandros III, and the third was minted during the city's period under Rhodian rule, while the last should be contemporary with the silver Series 11⁷. The city also minted coins during the Roman Imperial Period, but only during the reigns of Tiberius and Gordian III⁸.

Series	Series 1 Mid 3 rd cent. – c. 221/20 BCE	Series 2 c. 221/20 – 190 BCE		Series 3 189 – 168 BCE				
Emissions	2	1	2	1	2	3	4	6
Number	15	8	19	7	4	3	2	1
Total	15	27		17				

Table 1. Numerical distribution of coins comprising the hoard according to Series and Issues

¹ For the research dating back to the early 19th century in the city, see <http://www.phaselis.org>

² Heipp-Tamer 1993, 15; Bayburtluoğlu 2004, 70; Çevik 2015, 477; Arslan & Tüner-Önen 2016, 441 ff.

³ Ancient sources provide differing information regarding the regional boundaries within which Phaselis was located. For the sources in question, see Str. XIV. 3. 9; Liv. XXXVII. 23; Ptol. V. 3. 5; Hierok. 683. I. *BMC Lycia*, LXVI-LXVIII; 79-82 no. 1-21; Heipp-Tamer 1993. For the coins of the Lykian League, see also, Troxell 1982, 25-99.

⁵ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 25-39; 129-131 no. 1-48.

⁶ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 39-47; 131-133 no. 49-80.

⁷ For the silver coins, see Heipp-Tamer 1993, 47-84; 133-160 no. 81-375. For the bronze coins, see also, Heipp-Tamer 1993, 84-102; 160-175 no. B1-B64.

⁸ *BMC Lycia*, 82 no. 22-23.

The hoard under discussion consists of bronze coins from Series 1, Series 2 and Series 3, minted by the city between the mid-3rd century BCE and 168 BCE (Table 1).

It is hypothesised that the Series 1 bronze coins have been minted contemporaneously with the silver Series 8, between the mid-3rd century BCE and 221/20 BCE. This is based on the observation that the symbols and monograms depicted on the obverses and reverses of the coins are identical to those depicted on silver issues⁹. The series was minted in two emissions, bearing the type "Prow r.; / Stern l.; above, ΦΑΣ or ΦΑΣΗ", and with a total of 41 variations: 24 for the Emission 1 and 17 for the Emission 2¹⁰. Series 1 is represented in the hoard by only seven variations of the Emission 2, with a total of 15 specimens (cat. nos. 1-15). A total of five of these coins feature various symbols on their obverses. The first of these is likely a star (cat. no. 7), the second a *cornucopia* (cat. no. 8), and the third a rose (cat. no. 9). The last two are uncertain (cat. no. 14-15). The specimens in question range in diameter from 9-11 mm and in weight from 0.56-1.84 g, thus yielding an average diameter and weight of 9.86 mm and 1.21 g, respectively. The emissions 1 specimens, which have not been represented in the hoard, have the measurements of 14-18 mm in diameter and 3.49-6.25 g in weight. In this case, Emission 2 indicates a much smaller unit with dimensions approximately 1/5th of the average size of its predecessor¹¹.

The Series 2 bronze coins have been minted during the same period as the Series 9 posthumous tetradrachms of Aleksandros III, dated to the years 221/20–190 BCE¹². The series was minted in two emissions: Emission 1 bearing the type of "Prow r.; above, ΦΑΣΗ / Athena Promakhos facing; holding a thunderbolt in r. hand and a shield in l.; on left, Φ" and Emission 2 "Prow r.; above, ΦΑΣΗ / Athena Promakhos r.; holding a thunderbolt in r. hand and a shield in l.; on left, Φ". There are 2 variations of the first emission and 11 of the second emission, which, as in the previous series, are distinguished by the symbol in the field above the prow on the obverse (the symbol is not visible on some emissions)¹³. Series 2 is represented in the hoard by both emissions, the first with 8 examples and the second with 19 (Emission 1: cat. nos. 16-23 and Emission: cat. nos. 24-42). The first of these issues is represented in the hoard by only one variation, while the second is represented by five variations. Only three symbols are represented on the Emission 2 specimens. The first is a rose (cat. nos. 36-37) and the second, indicates previously unrecorded new variation, is a helmet (cat. no. 38). The Emission 1 specimens have measurements ranging from 16-18 mm in diameter and 3.84-5.28 g in weight, while the Emission 2 specimens have measurements ranging from 16-20 mm and 3.10-6.06 g. Accordingly, the average diameter and weight of the Emission 1 is 16.84 mm and 4.30 g, while the Emission 2 is 16.87 mm and 4.58 g¹⁴.

The Series 3 bronze coins have been minted between 189-168 BC, when the city was under

⁹ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 91. For the Series 8 silver, see Heipp-Tamer 1993, 54-65, 133-140 cat. nos. 81-159.

¹⁰ The distinguishing characteristics of these variations are various symbols and monograms located on the upper and lower margins of the coin's obverses and reverses. Heipp-Tamer 1993, 87-92; 160-167 no. B1-B41 and a-ddd, a-zz.

¹¹ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 87 noted that the weights of the Emission 2 bronze coins, represented by 105 pieces, ranged from 0.59 to 1.63 g and had an average weight of 1.175 g. It was stated that, as with the Emission 1, which had varying weights, it is not possible to determine the exact measurements of the denomination of the Emission 2.

¹² For the posthumous tetradrachms of Aleksandros III, see Heipp-Tamer 1993, 65-79, 140-156 cat. no. 160-322.

¹³ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 96; 167-170 no. B42-B53 and a-r, a-cc.

¹⁴ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 92 stated that the weights of the Emission 1 bronze coins, represented by 36 pieces, ranged from 3.69-5.20 g and the weights of the Emission 2 examples, represented by 87 pieces, ranged from 2.89 to 5.54 g, with average weights of 4.44 g and 4.39 g, respectively.

the rule of Rhodes¹⁵. The series was minted in six emissions, which bear the type of "Prow, r.; Nike flying r., bearing a wreath; dotted border / Athena Promakhos; holding a thunderbolt in r. hand and a shield in l.; on l. field, Φ; dotted border" (Emission 1-6)¹⁶. Each emission is distinctly identified by letters (indicate numbers) on the right field of the reverse, indicating the emissions¹⁷. Accordingly, in the first emission, no letter is visible, while in the other emissions, the letters A, B, Γ, Δ, and Ε are visible, respectively. The series is represented in the hoard by 17 examples, with the exception of Emission 5 (Emission 1: cat. nos. 43-49, Emission 2: cat. nos. 50-53, Emission 3: cat. nos. 54-56, Emission 4: cat. nos. 57-58, and Emission 6: cat. no. 59). The coins of these emissions vary in terms of their measurements. Accordingly, Emission 1 has a diameter and weight of 16-20 mm and 3.30-6.24 g, Emission 2 has 15-19 mm and 3.24-5.12 g, Emission 3 has 17-19 mm and 3.70-3.98 g, Emission 4 has 19-21 mm and 3.40-3.98 g, and Emission 6 has 22 mm and 3.66 g¹⁸. In addition, although no such example has been presented in the hoard, it should also be noted that only the bronze coins of Emission 3 (1 specimen), Emission 4 (1 specimens) and Emission 6 (6 specimens) bear a rectangular countermark depicting a lyra¹⁹. The lyra, a symbol of Apollon²⁰, also appears as a type on Lykian League coinage. This countermark, which belong to Phaselis, was applied to certain Phaselis bronzes probably likely after 138 BC²¹ to contribute to the Lykian League on behalf of the city, which did not have its own silver league coins. Furthermore, these countermarked bronze coins continued to circulate alongside the city's own silver league coins even after the latter were put into circulation²².

Although the die orientations of the coins in the hoard are largely irregular, it is observed that more than half have a die orientation is 180°, while the rest have different orientations. Examination on the bronze series of Phaselis reveals that this phenomenon is particularly apparent in the first two series, while it becomes more consistent in the third series²³.

In conclusion, the examined hoard consists of the first three bronze series minted between the mid-3rd century and 168 BCE. An observation of the representation of these series in the hoard reveals that Series 2 is the most represented, with 27 specimens, followed by Series 3 with 17 specimens and Series 1 with 15 specimens. It is also noteworthy that Series 3 Emissions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are represented by 7, 4, 3, 2, and 1 examples, respectively, in the hoard. This is significant as it suggests that the date of circulation of the last issues coincided with a time close to the burial date of the hoard. This is evidenced by the single example from the last emission, which indicates that the series was already in the hoard prior to its wider circulation. The absence of the lyra countermarked examples mentioned above on the Series 3 bronzes from the hoard points to 168 BCE, when the minting of Series 3 ceased, as the terminus post quem for

¹⁵ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 101.

¹⁶ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 96-101, 171-174 no. B54-B63 and a-g. (Emission 5 represented by only one example: Heipp-Tamer 1993, 173 no. B61).

¹⁷ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 98 suggests that these letters could have been used for administrative purposes, and that they might also serve as dating markers based on the tetradrachms minted after the death of Aleksander III.

¹⁸ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 98 stated that the weights of Series 3 Emissions 1-6 bronze coins, represented by 154 pieces, ranged from 3.78 g, 4.11 g, 4.18 g, 3.90 g, 3.09 g and 3.85 g respectively.

¹⁹ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 173 no. B59 and 174 no. B63.

²⁰ For the cult of Apollon in Phaselis, see Onur 2026.

²¹ This countermark applied also the foreign coins such as silver coins of Rhodos and Side by the cities of Kyenai and Aptiphellos for the purpose of contribute to the Lykian League, lacking of their league coins (Troxell 1982, 26-27).

²² Heipp-Tamer 1993, 99-101.

²³ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 160-174.

the possible burial date of the hoard. This means that the hoard must have been buried at this date or shortly thereafter. This result is consistent with the date after 167 BCE²⁴ proposed by Heipp-Tamer for the minting of Series 4, as this series is not represented in the hoard.

CATALOGUE²⁵

Mid 3rd cent. BC- c. 221/20

Series 1, Emission 2

Obv. Prow r.

Rev. Stern l.; above, ΦΑΣ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B26.

1. 10 mm 0.98 g dp. 1 Inv. No. 14697

2. 10 mm 0.96 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14696

3. 10 mm 0.56 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14709

4. 10 mm 1.24 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14698

5. 11 mm 1.46 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14699

6. 9 mm 1.06 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14707

Obv. Prow r.; above, star?

Rev. Stern l.; above, ΦΑΣ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B28.

7. 9 mm 1.18 g dp. 7 Inv. No. 14702

Obv. Prow r.; above, *cornucopia*.

Rev. Stern l.; above, ΦΑΣΗ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B29.

8. 10 mm 1.38 g dp. 6 Inv. No. 14701

Obv. Prow r.; above, rose.

Rev. Stern l.; above, ΦΑΣ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B33.

9. 9 mm 0.84 g dp. 2 Inv. No. 14705

Obv. Prow r.

Rev. Stern l.; above, ΦΑΣ; border of dots.

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B35.

10. 11 mm 1.84 g dp. 6 Inv. No. 14695

11. 11 mm 1.40 g dp. 6 Inv. No. 14703

Obv. Prow r.

Rev. Stern r.; above, Φ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B40.

12. 10 mm 1.36 g dp. 1 Inv. No. 14700

13. 10 mm 1.30 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14708

Obv. Prow r.; above, ?

Rev. Stern l.; above, ΦΑΣ or ΦΑΣΗ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, a-zz.

14. 9 mm 1.18 g dp. 6 Inv. No. 14704

15. 9 mm 1.46 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14706

c. 221/20-190 BC

Series 2, Emission 1

Obv. Prow r.; above, ΦΑΣΗ

Rev. Athena Promakhos, facing; holding thunderbolt in r. hand, shield in l; in l. field, Φ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B42.

16. 16 mm 4.84 g dp. 6 Inv. No. 14646

17. 17 mm 4.66 g dp. 6 Inv. No. 14656

18. 17 mm 4.58 g dp. 6 Inv. No. 14650

19. 17 mm 4.58 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14665

20. 16 mm 4.20 g dp. 9 Inv. No. 14671

21. 18 mm 3.84 g dp. 5 Inv. No. 14676

22. 16 mm 4.66 g dp. 3 Inv. No. 14640

23. 18 mm 5.28 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14643

Series 2, Emission 2

Obv. Prow r.; above, ΦΑΣΗ

Rev. Athena Promakhos, r.; holding thunderbolt in r. hand, shield in l; in l. field, Φ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B44.

24. 16 mm 4.92 g dp. 3 Inv. No. 14645

25. 16 mm 4.34 g dp. 9 Inv. No. 14647

26. 17 mm 4.48 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14651

27. 17 mm 3.10 g dp. 6 Inv. No. 14652

28. 17 mm 4.88 g dp. 3 Inv. No. 14653

29. 15 mm 4.84 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14659

30. 20 mm 5.40 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14660

31. 18 mm 4.16 g dp. 1 Inv. No. 14663

32. 17 mm 3.70 g dp. 1 Inv. No. 14666

33. 17 mm 4.24 g dp. 1 Inv. No. 14667

34. 17 mm 4.06 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14668

Obv. Prow r.; above, ΦΑΣΗ; border of dots.

Rev. Athena Promakhos, r.; holding thunderbolt in r. hand, shield in l; in l. field, Σ?; in r. field, Φ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B46 (no border of dots).

35. 17 mm 3.68 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14674

Obv. Prow r.; above, rose.

Rev. Athena Promakhos, r.; holding thunderbolt in r. hand, shield in l; in l. field, Φ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B51.

36. 18 mm 4.42 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14658

37. 18 mm 4.24 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14654

Obv. Prow r.; above, helmet; border of dots.

Rev. Athena Promakhos r.; holding thunderbolt in r. hand, shield in l; in l. field, Φ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer -

38. 17 mm 3.56 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14657

Obv. Prow r.; above, uncertain symbol.

Rev. Athena Promakhos, r.; holding thunderbolt in r. hand, shield in l; in l. field, Φ

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B53a-cc.

39. 15 mm 6.06 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14672

40. 15 mm 4.16 g dp. 1 Inv. No. 14669

41. 15 mm 4.12 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14670

42. 18 mm 3.46 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14675

189-c. 168 BC

Series 3, Emission 1

Obv. Prow r.; above, Nike flying r., holding wreath; border of dots.

Rev. Athena Promakhos, r.; holding thunderbolt in r. hand, shield in l; in l. field, Φ; border of dots.

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B54.

43. 18 mm 3.98 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14655

²⁴ Heipp-Tamer 1993, 102.

²⁵ Coins with diameters of 9-11 mm are displayed at twice their actual size (x2) on the plates, while coins with larger diameters are shown at their original size.

44. 18 mm 3.78 g dp. 11 Inv. No. 14639
 45. 18 mm 3.30 g dp. 3 Inv. No. 14635
 46. 17 mm 4.90 g dp. 6 Inv. No. 14641
 47. 19 mm 6.24 g dp. 11 Inv. No. 14648
 48. 16 mm 5.08 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14649
 49. 20 mm 3.40 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14638

Series 3, Emission 2

Obv. Prow r.; above, Nike flying r., holding wreath; border of dots.

Rev. Athena Promakhos, r.; holding thunderbolt in r. hand, shield in l; in l. field, Φ; in l. field, A; border of dots.

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B55; *BMC Lycia*, 18.

50. 19 mm 3.24 g dp. 11 Inv. No. 14637
 51. 18 mm 5.12 g dp. 1 Inv. No. 14642
 52. 18 mm 3.38 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14644
 53. 15 mm 3.94 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14673

Rev. In r. field, A?

Series 3, Emission 3

Obv. Prow r.; above, Nike flying r., holding wreath; border of dots.

Rev. Athena Promakhos, r.; holding thunderbolt in r. hand, shield in l; in l. field, Φ; in r. field, B; border of dots.

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B58; *BMC Lycia*, 19.

54. 17 mm 5.24 g dp. 9 Inv. No. 14636
 55. 19 mm 3.88 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14661
 56. 18 mm 3.70 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14664
 Rev. B?

Series 3, Emission 4

Obv. Prow r.; above, Nike flying r., holding wreath; border of dots.

Rev. Athena Promakhos, r.; holding thunderbolt in r. hand, shield in l; in l. field, Φ; in l. field, Γ; border of dots.

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B60.

57. 21 mm 3.40 g dp. 1 Inv. No. 14662
 58. 19 mm 3.98 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 14678

Series 3, Emission 6

Obv. Prow r.; above, Nike flying r., holding wreath; border of dots.

Rev. Athena Promakhos, r.; holding thunderbolt in r. hand, shield in l; in l. field, Φ; in l. field, Ε; border of dots.

Ref. Heipp-Tamer, B62; *BMC Lycia*, 20-1.

59. 22 mm 3.66 g dp. 12 Inv. No. 1467.

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PLATES

Pl.1





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