

## An Argive Hoard.

A recently found hoard of 164 Argive bronze pieces of B.C. 278-146 forms an interesting parallel to the similar one published by Mr. P. B. Welch in the Numismatic Chronicle for 1924. The coins are in good condition and are, like his, of the four main types:

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Obv. Head of Apollo, r. Laur. hair rolled |                    |
| Rev. Wolf at bay                             | B.M.C. Nos 127-130 |
| 2. Obv. Head of Apollo, r. Laur. hair rolled |                    |
| Rev. Tripod lebes                            | B.M.C. Nos 131-4   |
| 3. Obv. Wolf's head r.                       |                    |
| Rev. Quiver                                  | B.M.C. Nos 138, 9  |
| 4. Obv. Head of Hera, r. wearing stephane    |                    |
| Rev. Quiver                                  | B.M.C. Nos 140-6   |

The pieces were distributed as follows.

B.M.C. No 127	2
(Var)	1
128	54
(Var)	2
131	5
(Var)	2
133	5
(Var)	1
134	7
138	10
140	26
(Var)	1
142 (Var)	3
143	33
(Var)	2
146	6

Varieties: B.M.C. 127 Var. Rev. above A., in ex. 010(S)AT

Bme 128 Var (2 coins)  $\overline{K}$  A

Below, between legs K A

under neck E

(Mr. Welch's Var. 3)

Bme 131 Var 1 Rev: to l.  $\square$  to r. Club Star  
A N

(As the top of the coin is not well preserved, there is no doubt that this is Mr. Welch's  
131 Var 3)

Var 2 Rev: to l. A to r. Club  $\square$  H  
 $\square$   
A

(Mr. Welch's 131 Var 4)

Bme 133 Var Rev: to l. A to r.  $\square$  [H]  
Bunch of grapes. club  
A [N]

(Mr. Welch's 131 Var 2)

Bme 133 4 coins have  $\Lambda$  above the club and  $\kappa$  below

1 has  $\Lambda$  above the club and  $\kappa$  to the l.

Bme 134 2 have  $\Lambda$  above the ear of corn and  $\kappa$  below

5 have  $\Lambda$  above the ear of corn and  $\kappa$  to the r.

Bme 140 Var Rev: to l.  $\Pi$  to r. A M  
Trident Prow  
 $\Phi$  A  $\Upsilon$  E

Bme 142 Var (2 coins) Rev: to l. Helmet to r.  $\overline{K}$   
 $\kappa$  A  $\square$   
E

(Mr. Welch's 140 Var. 1)

Bme 144 Var 1 Rev: to l.  $\square$  to r. Palm (top of coin obliterated)  
 $\Sigma$   $\Sigma$

Var 2 Rev: to l. A to r.  $\square$   
 $\square$  Palm  
 $\Sigma$  /  $\Sigma$

(The  $\Sigma$  / seems to be a mere blunder of the die cutter for  $\Sigma$  X and hardly deserves  
to be classed as a variety)

The average diameter of the coins is about a centimeter and a half, and their weight ranges from

not above two grams to just under four grams and a half, with the great majority between two and three quarters and three and three quarters grams

Mr. Welch's hoard shows six varieties that are not found in this one whereas this had four not shown in his. But the general similarity is striking. The four types are the same in both, and Nos 138, 140 and 144 are common in both, though his has a much larger proportion of No 131. The state of preservation of all the varieties is so similar that it seems doubtful that this issue can have been distributed over a period of eighty years, and the best are so clear that they appear to have been very recent issues at the time of burial. It will be noted that all the varieties of the British Museum Catalogue from 127 to 146 are represented, with the exception of Nos 136 and 137 which have a large A on the reverse and which, I should conjecture, belong before the beginning of this group, immediately following the bronze pieces of the previous period, with a large A on the reverse.

The only other coin of the hoard was a rather worn piece of Sicily of B.C. 250-146, like B.M.C. 203: Obv. Dove, flying l.; Rev.  $\Sigma$  in olive wreath. There seems to have been an inscription on the obverse, but it is now illegible.

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