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Ancient Coins from Pondoland

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should also be imparted in a summary form from the best Italian Translations, and two years later, in 1891, this compendium appeared accompanied by the approval and praise of literary men, among whom was Ruggiero Bonghi. The second edition was issued this year; it is far superior to the first, containing at the end of each Book useful and appropriate notes of explanation, besides illustrations after photographs of valuable pictures and sculptures belonging to modern, mediæval and classic times, one from a sarcophagus at Volterra, two from the paintings of Pompei, and others from famous galleries, chiefly of Italy, all welcome to the eye as old friends whom one is glad to meet. Yet the ornamental part of the work is but a happy addition to it; that which strikes the reader most is the thoroughness of the treatment throughout. The parts chosen, the succinct but perfect connection between them in prose, and the Notes, be they etymological interpretations

of words like *guiderdons*, moral comments on the allegorical meaning of *Moli*, or astronomical explanations, everything testifies to the vigilance of the author. As regards the choice of the Italian Translations to be used, Prof. Clerici says himself that he could not make a mistake, as he received Instructions, namely Monti's for the *Iliad*, Caro's for the *Aeneid* and either Pindemonte's or Maspero's version for the *Odyssey*. He chose Pindemonte for the first, and Maspero for the last, twelve Books.

Finally the work contains in their right places excursions on ancient art, on the more difficult mythological questions, on comparative literature, and especially on the connexion of Dante's Divine Comedy with the VIth. Book of *Aeneid*. They are more difficult than the Notes, intended to lead the young readers further, and will afford an intellectual treat to all interested in this subject.

M. H.

FRAGMENTUM CYCLICI INCERTI.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ. ποῖόν σ' ὄχημα πρὸς τὰδ' ἤγαγε
στέγη;

ΔΓΓΕΛΟΣ. πιστόν γε θεῶν δώρημα, Κεν-
ταύρων γένος.¹

B. ἀλλ' οὐ καθ' ἵππον εἰκάσαι τις
ἂν τάχος.

Δ. οὐχ ἱππόμορφον ἀλλ' ὑφ' Ἡφαί-
στου τέχνης—

B. κλύων θαύμασ', εἰ τὰδ' Ἡφαί-
στω μέλει.

ΔΓΓΕΛΟΣ. σιδηροτεύκτοις μηχαναῖς κυλίν
δεταί.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ. οὐκουν ἔρετρούς δαιδάλους πε-
ρῶν λέγεις.

Δ. δισσοὺς γὰρ ἤλασ' αὐτόπους
μόνος τροχούς.

B. θεὸς δ' ἑάσει κάμῃ ταῦτ' ἀνθ' ἑ-
θάνειν;

Δ. πόλει μὲν οὖν ἔχρησε πανδημῆι
κυκλείν.

F. POLLOCK.

¹ τὸ τῆς μηχανῆς ὄνομα σημαίνει δηλονότι πολλῶν τε γὰρ οὐσῶν καὶ καλῶν καὶ πολλαχῶς λεγομένων ἐν ταῖς πρώταις ἐτιμῶντο αἱ ἀπὸ τῶν Κενταύρων ὀνομαζόμεναι.

ARCHAEOLOGY.

ANCIENT COINS FROM PONDOLAND.

AMONG a number of bronze Greek and Roman coins belonging to Mr. Thomas Cook, of Messrs. Cook Brothers, Concessionaires of East Pondoland, are some which were found at Fort Grosvenor about four years ago. The site of what had once been a Kaffir hut was

being excavated in search of treasure, when, some ten feet below the surface, the diggers came upon a calabash which crumbled away in their hands. It contained three Ptolemaic coins, and some (the owner is unfortunately no longer certain which) of the Roman coins described below. The Ptolemaic coins, which I have classed, so far as their condition per-

mits, according to the attributions given in the British Museum Catalogue of the Coins of the Ptolemies, are as follows:—

Ptolemy I. or II.

1. *Obv.* Head of Zeus to right, laureate.

Rev. [ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ] ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ.
Eagle on thunderbolt to left, wings spread. In field, uncertain monograms.

Size 1·1 inches.

Compare B. M. Catalogue, p. 17, No. 29.

Ptolemy II.

2. *Obv.* Head of Zeus to right, laureate.

Rev. ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ.
Eagle on thunderbolt to left, wings closed. Between its legs, uncertain monogram.

Size 1·15 inches.

Compare B. M. Catalogue, p. 32, No. 107.

Ptolemy IV.

3. *Obv.* Head of Zeus Ammon to right, diademed. Border of dots.

Rev. ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ.
Eagle on thunderbolt to left, wings closed, head reverted; cornucopias with fillets on left wing; between eagle's legs, A or Λ.

Size 1·55 inches.

Compare B. M. Catalogue, p. 66, No. 36.

The Roman coins some of which were found with the Ptolemaic are of very much later date, being all of the period immediately following the reform of Diocletian in A.D. 296. They are as follows:—

Diocletian.

1. *Obv.* IMP C DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG. Head to right, laureate.

Rev. GENIO POPVLI ROMANI.
Genius with patera and cornucopias. In field to right $\frac{A}{I}$, to left XX. In exergue, mintmark ALE.

Cohen, *Monn. fr. sous l'Emp. Rom.*, No. 101.

Maximianus I. Hercules.

Obv. IMP C M A MAXIMIANUS P F AVG. Head to right, laureate.

Rev. GENIO POPVLI ROMANI. Type of No. 1.

Cohen, No. 184.

Three varieties:—

2. (a) In field to right, A. In exergue, ALE.

3. (b) In field to right A; to left, star. In exergue, ALE.

4. (c) In field to right, $\frac{S}{V}$; to left K. In exergue, ANT.

Constantius I. Chlorus.

5. *Obv.* FL VAL CONSTANTIVS NOB CAES. Head to right, laureate.

Rev. GENIO AVGG ET CAESARVM NN. Type of No. 1. In exergue KB.

Cohen, No. 58.

Galeria Valeria (wife of Maximianus II).

6. *Obv.* GAL VALERIA AVG. Bust to right, diademed.

Rev. VENERI VICTRICI. Venus standing to left, holding apple in right, and raising veil with left. In field to right

$\frac{\Gamma}{P}$; to left, K. In exergue ALE.

Cohen, No. 2.

Maximinus II. Daza.

7. *Obv.* GAL VAL MAXIMINVS NOB CAES. Head to right, laureate.

Rev. GENIO POPVLI ROMANI. Type of No. 1. In field to right H. In exergue ANT.

Cohen, No. 81.

8. Another, *rev.* GENIO CAESARIS.

Type of No. 1. In field to left, $\frac{X}{\Delta}$, to r. K.

In exergue ALE.

Cohen, No. 40.

9. *Obv.* IMP C GAL VAL MAXIMINVS P F AVG. Head to right, laureate.

Rev. GENIO IMPERATORIS. Type of No. 1. In field to right $\frac{\Gamma}{P}$; to left crescent above K; in exergue ALE.

Cohen, No. 52.

Of these coins, which must have all been issued between the dates 296 and 313 A.D., Nos. 1-3, 6, 8, and 9 were struck at Alexandria; Nos. 4 and 7 at Antioch in Syria; and No. 5 at Cyzicus. The three Ptolemaic coins range between the years 305 and 204

B.C. This gap of over six centuries between the dates of issue of the two groups of coins may seem at first sight to detract from the value of the evidence. But in barbarous districts coins circulate for an almost incredible length of time, and we know that, for instance, Roman coins are at the present day offered in change in parts of the Spanish peninsula. The owner, who was present at the excavation, can testify to the fact that all the Ptolemaic and some of the Roman coins were found together in the circumstances described. It may therefore be supposed that the Ptolemaic coins arrived first in Pondoland, and were afterwards buried in combination with the Roman coins, which from their condition had, with the exception of No. 1, not been in circulation very long. There is nothing astonishing in the fact that in early times coins passed from hand to hand along what is now an important trade route. The daily papers last year had notices (the veracity of which has since been confirmed by personal evidence) of the discovery of a copper coin of Constantine in the same part of the world. Of course the presence of these coins in Pondoland does not imply the presence of Greek or Roman colonists, since coins travel much farther than individuals.

While the nature of our evidence makes it necessary to use all caution in drawing conclusions, it has at least seemed worth while to put the facts, such as they are, on record.

G. F. HILL.

MONTHLY RECORD.

GERMANY.

Wiesbaden.—The excavations on the site of the recently discovered Roman camp at Holzhausen in this neighbourhood have laid bare the four gates with their towers. Over the north-west gate (the *porta sinistra*) an inscription has been deciphered, in honour of Caracalla, dated A.D. 213. There are traces of another long inscription on the *porta praetoria*, the most imposing of the four gates, but it is too broken and fragmentary to be deciphered. Numerous silver coins of Caracalla, Septimius Severus, and Severus Alexander have come to light, all in excellent preservation; also a silver armet, a primitive leaden armet, fragments of glass vessels, and of *terra sigillata*. In the neighbourhood of the Praetorium was found a broken head of a Genius with a mural crown.¹

ITALY.

Palestro (Piedmont).—A pre-Roman tomb has been discovered, in which were two bronze fibulae of the form known as a *sanguisuga*. One is much larger and more perfect than the other; the foot

ends in a series of knobs, and it is ornamented with spots of white enamel. From the pin hang a ring with eight knobs (probably an ornament for the hair), a curious rectangular frame with two little cups, perhaps for cosmetics, and ten other objects, including an ear-pick, two nail-files, and three pairs of tweezers. They are probably imitations of the real objects made for sepulchral purposes.²

Florence.—Important Roman remains have come to light near the Baptistery, belonging to a large private house of the time of the Republic, and shewing in the arrangement of the rooms some remarkable peculiarities of the Tuscan style. The *atrium* or *cavaedium*, the *tablinum*, and some of the *cubicula* still exist, and are quite distinct, but the vestibule and door have been destroyed to make way for later constructions. In the *atrium* a headless marble dog was found, which recalls the *cave canem* mosaics at Pompeii. The coins and inscriptions are all of the later Imperial times, shewing that the house was inhabited down to those times. One inscription is a public decree by the *decuriones* of Florentia, another, a dedication in honour of Sextus Gabinus and another *vir illustris*.³

Imola.—Remains of a Roman bridge have been found in the river Santerno. On a block which has formed the keystone is an inscription, much injured. A mosaic pavement has also been found here, with various patterns for the different parts of the house. The best specimen is in the *tablinum*, the patterns consisting of bands of foliage with Bacchic masks and a tree-trunk with garlands of leaves and fruit, pomegranates and pines, all in polychrome.⁴

Baiae.—A *cippus* has been found with important inscriptions, relating to one L. Caecilius Dioscurus, *curator augustalium Cumanorum duplicitarius et perpetuus embaenitariorum trerum pisciniensium*. The last three words must relate to makers of fishing-boats which were used on the *piscinae* attached to large villas, such as were possessed by Nero (at Baiae) and Severus Alexander. The inscription dates from the reign of the latter Emperor. The word *embaeniticam* occurs in Cic. *ad Fam.* viii. 1, 21, for a boat.²

Pompeii.—The houses in Insula xv. to the north of the house of Vettius have been completely investigated. They contained among other things a marble statue of a Nymph and two interesting terra-cotta figures. One of these represents a drunken old woman seated with a bowl in her left hand and a jar at her feet. It has served as a vase. The motive appears to be derived from a statue by Myron at Smyrna, mentioned by Pliny (*Hist. Nat.* xxxvi. 32). The other has also served as a vase, and represents an elephant with a tower on its back, driven by a negro. The tower is fastened on by three chains, and over the body is drapery falling to the feet; on three sides of the castle are hung shields, and above are small openings. Among the paintings on the walls are Artemis and a youth, accompanied by two Cupids, a subject otherwise unknown; Perseus and Andromeda seated on a rock, the former holding up the Gorgon's head, the reflection of which is seen below; Helen and Paris at Sparta; Bacchus; and Venus Anadyomene.²

Atena (Lucania). A *cippus* has been discovered bearing an important inscription: C' SEMPRONIUS' TI' F' | AP' CLAVDIVS' C' F' | P' LICINIUS' P' F' | III VIR' A' I' A'. The three last letters stand for *agris iudicandis assignandis*, a title given by the Lex

² *Notizie dei Lincei*, Jan. 1897.

³ *Athenaeum*, 14 Aug.

⁴ *Notizie dei Lincei*, Feb. 1897.

¹ *Athenaeum*, 4 Sept.