

Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the British Museum—Attica, Megaris, Aegina. By BARCLAY V. HEAD. Edited by REGINALD STUART POOLE. London. 1888. 8vo.

A most carefully prepared volume, illustrated by twenty-six autotype plates. The Introduction of fifty-nine pages (here partially summarized) includes an able and lucid account of the coinage of Athens. The earliest coins which undoubtedly belong to Athens are the well-known tetradrachms with the types of Pallas and the Owl. The author shows by convincing arguments that these belong to the time of Solon (circ. B.C. 594). The coins of the time of Pisistratus (B.C. 560—527) are of larger diameter and less globular fabric. During the long period B.C. 527—322 the archaic types of Pallas and the Owl are, for commercial reasons, steadily maintained. Four slight varieties of style may however be discerned, and by these the coins can be chronologically arranged. When Athens fell into the hands of the Macedonians, B.C. 322, her coinage ceased, and it was probably not till B.C. 220 that there took place a new issue of money, consisting chiefly of tetradrachms of flat fabric, bearing magistrates' names and symbols. This large class of tetradrachms is catalogued alphabetically according to magistrates, but in the Introduction Mr. Head proposes a chronological assignment of the different specimens. The silver money comes to an end about B.C. 83, three years after the capture of Athens by Sulla. From this time no Athenian coinage appears to have been allowed till, under Hadrian, bronze imperial coins—issued perhaps till the time of Caracalla—made their appearance. The obverses of these coins present the head of Athena instead of the usual head of the reigning emperor. On their reverses are a number of copies of statues mentioned by Pausanias and others. The gold and the earlier bronze coinages of Athens are discussed on pp. xxvi.—xxx. The coins of Eleusis—Megaris are treated on pp. lx.—lxiv.

The earliest coinage of the enterprising merchants of Aegina belongs apparently to the seventh century B.C. If the statement which connects its issue with Pheidon be correct, his date—so much disputed—cannot be placed earlier than that century. The standard of the Aeginetic money is, according to Head, the Phœnician standard in a degraded form. The tortoise coins are arranged in four classes: I. Tortoise with smooth shell and row of dots on its back. *Reverse*, incuse square roughly divided. II. Similar tortoise. *Rev.* incuse square divided by broad bars into compartments. III. Tortoise with the carapace as in nature. *Rev.* As No. II. IV. Similar to No. III., but with inscriptions on the reverse. Class IV. begins in B.C. 404, when the population of Aegina, which had been expelled by the Athenians in B.C. 431, was restored by Lysander. Class III. extends from B.C. 480—431. Class II. perhaps from B.C. 550 to 480, and Class I. belongs to the seventh and sixth centuries. There are bronze coins of the third and second centuries and an imperial bronze coinage.

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