GERT RISPLING (Stockholm, Sweden)

A LIST OF COIN FINDS RELEVANT TO THE STUDY OF EARLY ISLAMIC-TYPE IMITATIONS

Introduction
This article presents a list of finds dated before 920 A.D. which will aid in the study of the earliest Islamic-type imitations found in the Viking-age finds (800–1000 A.D.). To that end certain data receive attention: the number of coins in a hoard, its \textit{tpq}\footnote{1. \textit{Tpq}: Terminus post quem, the earliest possible date of the most recent coin in a hoard, here regularly expressed in Islamic dates (TpqIslam).} and, as far as can be estimated, the number of imitations and their origins. Because this is only a preliminary presentation of the finds connected with imitations, no other analysis is given. There are two fundamental difficulties. First, the study of Islamic-type imitations is a field that is still in its early stages of development. Often that which is interpreted as an imitation by one scholar is not by another. Determining the origin of an imitation is an even more controversial subject. Second, another difficulty is the fact that many hoards are unpublished or listed without photos. In my experience, many of our esteemed colleagues in the past had a very vague idea about imitations and, if hesitant, still classified them as official coins.

It is my opinion that the total number of imitations is grossly underestimated. In this list braces \{ . . . \} indicate that I have not been able to examine the coins myself. Only hoards, and not stray finds, have been included. Hoards without imitations and a few accumulated finds are included in the list as well. In doing so, the purpose is not to arrive at a find date by \textit{tpq}, but to compare the number of imitations with the total number of coins accumulated. Near Eastern hoards are omitted completely in my list (which means that the North African group of imitations is not properly represented). In addition, numerous Russian and Caucasian hoards have been omitted, since I have no real knowledge of their contents. Those finds will be included in the forthcoming general find publication being prepared by Thomas S. Noonan.\footnote{2. Th. S. Noonan, “Dirham Hoards from Medieval Western Eurasia, c. 700–c. 1100” [Commentationes De Nummis Seculorum IX–XI in Suecia Repertis. Nova series 13] (Stockholm: Vitterhetsakademien, forthcoming).} Tom’s extraordinary ability to extract entire histories from the coins was admirable and an example to strive for. In fact, the present list has grown considerably due to Tom’s (and Kenneth Jonsson’s) interest in the finds during...
the past twenty years. However I take full responsibility for certain statements in this article for it is I alone who have classified the imitations and determined to which group they should be attributed. Some \textit{tpq} dates in my list are, for various reasons, different from the original, published \textit{tpq} dates. There will be a number of statements in this paper, but little evidence in support. But a fuller presentation of the problems, theories, and evidence falls beyond the purview of this paper, the main aim of which is to give a list of the finds that contain Islamic-type imitations.

\textbf{Dating and attribution to different groups}

Dating an imitation satisfactorily is far more likely than making a correct attribution to a mint or tribe. Although some groups of imitations may be determined more or less accurately, many are still difficult, if not impossible, with which to work. It will certainly always be difficult to identify an imitation, as long as it is found or traded singly. When found in a hoard, imitations with typical imitative features, such as the existence of die duplicates or die chains are likely to attract more attention. The dating is based on the date of the prototypes and the date of the most recent coin in the hoard (\textit{tpq}, i.e., \textit{terminus post quem}). The \textit{tpq} date is usually expressed in Muslim years (\textit{TpqIslam}, \textit{TpqKz}, \textit{TpqIm}). To my knowledge, the earliest imitation groups known are:

\textbf{North Africa}

The North African (\textit{ImAfr}) group. These imitations are rarely found in Scandinavian/Russian hoards. They are difficult to distinguish from regular issues. \textit{Tpq} dates: 193 (Umm Hajara, Near East), 217-18 (Wåsby, Sweden), 226 (Sinaw, Near East), 227 (Vyzhigsha, Russia).

\textbf{Georgia in the Caucasus}

Georgian (\textit{ImGeorg}) group found in the Tsebelda hoard, Georgia. As far as I am aware, not one single specimen has been found in Scandinavia or Western Europe. Clear imitations. The group should be early, but it is a matter of discussion.  

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3. \textit{Im:} imitation (unspecified; the abbreviations used to denote different groups are the ones I use in my data base of imitations, numbering 6,850 items).  
4. \textit{ImGeorg:} imitation presumably of Georgian origin.  