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Aufsätze und Materialien  
zur Sammlung RJ Ehlert  
**»Münzen der Osmanischen Welt«**

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1 | R. J. Ehlert: Nasri Tunus 1012

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Erst **Ömer Diler**<sup>1</sup> hat 1987 im Bülten No.22 Seite 27 zumindest einen Teil der Nasri wieder richtig Ahmed 3. zugeschrieben.

Erschwerend für die Bestimmung ist, daß:

- beide Sultane Ahmed bin Mehmed hießen und
- auf vielen Nasri nur die 2 letzten Zahlen des Prägejahres aufge-bracht sind, die sich bei den beiden Sultanen Ahmed 1. und Ahmed 3. überschneiden.

-Ahmed 1. <b>1012-1026</b> (..12 - ..14) <u>..15 - ..26</u>
-Ahmed 3. <b>1115-1143</b> <u>..15 - ..26</u> , ..27-..29 ( ..30 - ..43)

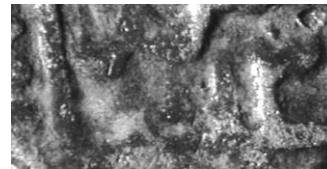
## Ahmed 1 (1012 – 1026)

Unter Ahmed 1. wurden Nasri geprägt, die dem Stil seiner Vorgänger und dem seiner Nachfolger (bis Mehmed 4.) glichen.



**AV: Sultān Aḥmad bin Muhammad Ḥān**  
**RV: ‘Azza naṣrahū ḡuriba bi-Tūnus sanat 1013**

RJE 1135  
Nasri Ahmed 1.; Prägeort: Tunus;  
Prägejahr 1013;  
Maße: 10x13 mm; Gewicht 0,787 gr.



Wie bei Murad 4. und Mehmed 4. sind auch die Nasri von Ahmed 1. nicht mit dem Jahr des Regierungsantritts sondern mit dem Jahr danach geprägt worden. Dies bedeutet, daß der Nasri von Achmed 1. nicht mit der Jahreszahl 1012 sondern mit 1013 geprägt wurde.

<sup>1</sup> Ömer Diler: Bülten No. 22; Türk Nümismatik Derneği Yayinlari; Istanbul 1987

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2 | R. J. Ehlert: Nasri unter  
Ahmed 3 (1115–1143), Tunis

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## Ahmed 3 (1115 – 1143)

Mehmed 4. (1058 – 1099) prägte die letzten Nasri des Typs 1 mit der Jahreszahl ..59. Ahmed 3. führte (nach heutigem Wissen) 1115, also 56 Jahre danach, die Nasri-Prägung mit dem Typ 2 weiter. Im Gegensatz zu seinen Vorgängern prägte er jedoch mit laufenden Jahreszahlen in jedem Jahr von 1115 – 1129. Nasri, die nach ..29 geprägt wurden, sind bis jetzt nicht nachgewiesen. Die Jahreszahl "\ \ •" (mit mehr oder weniger deutlichem Punkt "•") für vermeintlich ..12 von 1012 ist eine Fälschung für ".120" also 1120. Die seit längerem bekannte Jahreszahl ..27 wurde fälschlicherweise zur posthumen Prägung von Ahmed 1. deklariert.

Auszug aus  
Revue Tunesienne  
von 1938  
von F.d. Candia

(9) Ce lot de *naçris* provient d'une trouvaille faite près de Gafsa en 1903, remise au service des Antiquités et conservée au Musée du Bardo : ce trésor se compose de 637 pièces carrées d'argent au titre de 650/1.000<sup>e</sup> mesurant 12 <sup>m</sup>/<sub>m</sub> environ de côté pour chaque pièce, elles sont très irrégulières dans leur forme et leur poids varie de 0 gr. 35 à 0 gr. 55. En voici le détail :

An 1115.....	1 pièce
— 1116.....	13 —
— 1117.....	6 —
— 1118.....	62 —
— 1119.....	50 —
— 1120.....	5 —
— 1121.....	1 —
— 1123.....	1 —
— 1124.....	41 —
— 1125.....	64 —
— 1126.....	39 —
— 1127.....	55 —
Illisibles, dates effacées, etc.....	296 —
Naçris frappés sous les deys.....	2 —
Naçri d'imitation.....	1 —
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>637 pièces</b>

Zusammenfassung eines  
von 1942; ebenfalls  
Revue Tunesienne

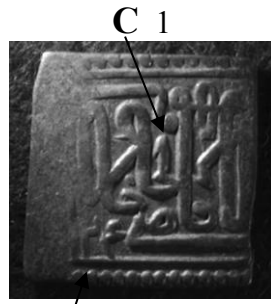
### Nasri carrés de Hossein I<sup>er</sup> :

An 1115.....	3 pièces
— 1116.....	8 —
— 1117.....	3 —
— 1118.....	47 —
— 1119.....	49 —
— 1120.....	23 —
— 1121.....	2 —
— 1122.....	1 —
— 1124.....	39 —
— 1125.....	51 —
— 1126.....	53 —
— 1127.....	51 —
— 1128.....	1 —
— 1129.....	1 —
Illisibles, dates effacées, etc.....	162 —
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>494 pièces</b>

weiteren Fundes

Nach diesen beiden Auswertungen sind die Prägejahre ..22, ..23, ..28 und ..29 sehr selten. Ein Nasri mit dem Prägejahr ..28 ist erst kürzlich im Münz-handel aufgetaucht.<sup>1</sup> Bei der Darstellung des Prägejahres findet man bis zu 4 Varianten. Die Jahreszahlen können 2, 3 oder 4-stellig sein. Bei der 4-stelligen Jahreszahl "\ \ ••" ist die 2-stellige Jz (Zehner- u. Einerzahlen) hinzuzuaddieren. Zwei Jahreszahlen finden sich auf der Rückseite. Auf der Vorderseite der Münzen können über "Sultan" 2, 3 oder 4-stellige Jahreszahlen stehen oder ganz fehlen. Nicht ganz geklärt sind die Angaben unter "C", die "1" oder aber "lām bzw. alif" darstellen könnten.

<sup>1</sup> Scott Cordry: Catalog 109; March 1998.(w.o. picture)



B 24

Jahr	AV	Jahreszahlen	RV	Ge- wicht	Durch mess.	Bemerkungen
AH	A	B	C	(gr)	(mm)	
1115	1115 li.unt	115	1			Jz links unten
1115	115 li.unt	115	1			Jz links unten
1116	Ohne Ziffer	116	1			
1116	Ohne Ziffer	16	1			
1117	Ohne Ziffer	17	1			
1118	Sultan 1118	118	18			
1118	Sultan 118	18	18			
1119	Sultan 1119	19	9			
1119	Sultan 119	119	9			
1119	Sultan 119	19	9			
1119	Sultan 1100	119	9			
Jahr	AV	Jahreszahlen	RV	Ge- wicht	Durch mess.	Bemerkungen
AH	A	B	C	(gr)	(mm)	
1120	Sultan 1120	?	20			
1120	Sultan 1120	120	2			siehe Bülden/22-27
1120	Sultan 1100	20	1			
1120	Sultan --	112/0	1			
1121	Sultan ??	21	1			
1122	Sultan ??	22	?			St.Album-list 33/712
1123	Sultan ??	23	1			
1124	Sultan 124	24	1			
1124	Sultan 24	24	1			
1124	Sultan 1100	24	1			
1125	Sultan 24	25	1			Fehlprägung
1125	Sultan 1125	25	1			
1125	Sultan 1100	25	1			
1126	Sultan 126	26	1			
1126	Sultan 26	26	1			
1126	Sultan 1100	26	1			
1126	Sultan --	26	1			
1127	Sultan 27	27	1			
1128	?	?	?			Farrugia di Candia/1942
1129	?	?	?			Farrugia di Candia/1942

Der nachfolgende Sultan Mahmud 1. (1143 – 1168) prägte Nasri mit den Jahreszahlen 1150 u. 1151.

## Der Spruch

Auf der Rückseite der Nasri ist ein frommer Spruch (kein Koranvers) aufgebracht:

Yā qādī (al)-ḥağāt      يا فاضي حاجات

Yā kāfī (a)l-muhimāt      يا كافي لمهمات

Er lautet sinngmāß: **Oh Du, der Du allen Bedürfnissen nachkommst.**

**Oh Du, der Du uns mit dem Wichtigsten versorgst.**

( wörtlich : Oh Du, Richter über die Bedürfnisse  
Oh Du, Genüger auf die wichtigsten Dinge )

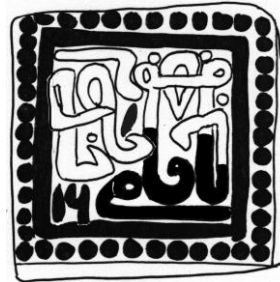


2) (al)-ḥağāt

حاجات ١

1) Yā qādī

يا فاضي

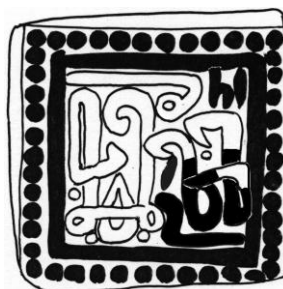


Der 2. Teil des Spruches ist kopfständig aufgebracht.

Die Buchstaben treffen sich in der Mitte und fließen ineinander über.



4)  
(a)l-



muhimāt

لمهمات

يا كافي

3) Yā kāfī

Den Artikel "al" unter 2) und das "alif" unter 4) hat man vielleicht aus kalligrafischen

Gesichtspunkten weggelassen; vielleicht ist die "ا" aber auch bei einigen Münzen als "alif"

bzw. "lām" zu lesen.

Die Münze gehört sicher zu den schönsten und interessantesten Geprägten der osmanischen Numismatik.

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3 | R. J. Ehlert:  
Die Riyal-Prägung von Mahmud II in Tunesien

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# Die Riyal-Prägung von Mahmud II in Tunesien

Typ	1	2	3	4	5	6	Vs	Bey	Gewicht (g)				
									fein	rauh			
1225	○						I	Hamuda	5,44	16,0			
26	○												
27	●												
28	●												
29	●												
30	●												
31	●										Mahmud	4,80	
32	●												
33	●												
34	●												
35	●												
36							II	Hussein	3,29	11,5			
37													
38													
39													
40		●											
41		●											
42		●	●										
43			●										
44			●	●									
45				●	●								
46					●		Mustafa Ahmed	3,14	11,0				
47					●								
48					●								
49					●	●							
50						●							
51						●							
52						●							
53						●							
54						●							
55						●							

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4 | Samuel Lachman: The Initial Letters  
on Ottoman Coins of the Eighteenth Century

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THE INITIAL LETTERS ON OTTOMAN COINS  
OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

SAMUEL LACHMAN

REPRINTED FROM  
THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
MUSEUM NOTES 19 (1974)

## THE INITIAL LETTERS ON OTTOMAN COINS OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

(PLATES XXVI-XXVIII)

SAMUEL LACHMAN

One of the problems of Ottoman numismatics is the initial letters on coins of the eighteenth century. Beginning sometime later than 1106 H./A.D. 1695, coins of the Ottoman Empire with the exception of those of Tripoli, Tunis, and Algiers, show Arabic initial letters in various positions.

Lane-Poole<sup>1</sup> and Ghalib<sup>2</sup> state that these letters appeared during the reign of Aḥmad III. Pere<sup>3</sup> writes correctly that they were introduced in the reign of Muṣṭafā II. In Egypt the letters appeared in the reign of Aḥmad III. During all reigns of the period, coins without initial letters were also issued.

In Turkey proper the last coins with initial letters were struck in the first regnal year of Muṣṭafā III. In Egypt they continued to appear irregularly until the reign of Selīm III.

The sultans of this period are Muṣṭafā II, 1106–1115 H./A.D. 1695–1703; Aḥmad III, 1115–1143 H./A.D. 1703–30; Maḥmūd I, 1143–1168 H./A.D. 1730–54; ‘Osmān III 1168–1171 H./A.D. 1754–7; Muṣṭafā III, 1171–1187 H./A.D. 1757–74; ‘Abd al-Ḥamīd I, 1187–1203 H./A.D. 1774–89; Selīm III, 1203–1222 H./A.D. 1789–1807.

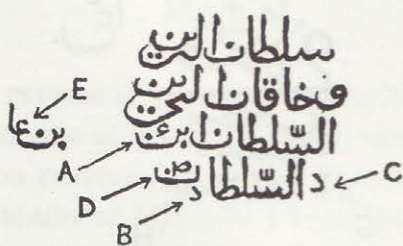


Fig. 1

<sup>1</sup> Stanley Lane-Poole, *The Coins of the Turks in the British Museum. Catalogue of Oriental Coins in the British Museum.* Vol. VIII (London, 1883), p. xxxviii.

<sup>2</sup> Ismail Ghalib, *Takvim-i Meskûkat-i Osmaniye*, (Istanbul 1307 H./A.D. 1890), p. 282.

<sup>3</sup> Nuri Pere, *Osmanlılarda Madeni Paralar*. (Istanbul, 1968), p. 185.

The initial letters have so far been observed in the following positions:<sup>4</sup>

A. Over *ibn* in third row of obverse (Fig. 1 and PLATE XXVI, 1).  
On the coins of all sultans from Muṣṭafā II to Muṣṭafā III, when years appear in the same place. In Egypt this position continues to be used until the reign of Selīm III. The letters stand alone or in a cartouche (PLATE XXVI, 2). During the reign of Muṣṭafā III the letters occur in Egypt together with numerals (PLATE XXVI, 4).

B. Beneath *nun* of *al-sultān* in last row of obverse.  
(Fig. 1 and PLATE XXVI, 1).

On coins of Muṣṭafā II and Aḥmad III.

C. Before *al-sultān* in last row of obverse.  
(Fig. 1 and PLATE XXVI, 1).

On coins of Muṣṭafā II and Aḥmad III, and on Egyptian zeri mahbubs of Maḥmūd I. Usually found in combination with letters in other positions. However, an Egyptian zeri mahbub is known with only an initial letter in this position (PLATE XXVI, 5).

D. Over *nun* of *al-sultān* in last row of obverse.  
(Fig. 1 and PLATE XXVI, 6).

On coins of Muṣṭafā II.

E. Joined to *nun* of *ibn* at l., in third row of obverse.  
(Fig. 1 and PLATE XXVI, 7).

On an Egyptian zeri mahbub of Maḥmūd I.

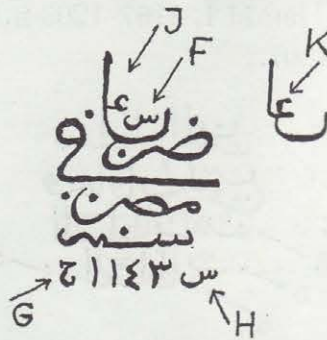


Fig. 2

<sup>4</sup> The drawings show all possible positions of the respective design; they do therefore not represent existing coins.

Over *bā* of *ḍuribā* on reverse

(Fig. 2 and PLATE XXVI, 8).

From Aḥmad III to Muṣṭafā III, when years appear in the same position.

The letters stand alone or in a cartouche (PLATE XXVI, 9). It occurs on an Egyptian para of ‘Abd al-Ḥamīd I. In Egypt during the reign of Muṣṭafā III the letters exist together with numerals. (PLATE XXVI, 10).

G. Left of accession year on the reverse (Fig. 2 and PLATE XXVI, 11).

On paras and akçeş of all reigns from Aḥmad III to Muṣṭafā III, and on Egyptian zincirli altıns of Maḥmūd I.

H. Right of accession year on reverse.

(Fig. 2 and PLATE XXVII, 12)<sup>5</sup>

On zincirli altıns of Egypt of Maḥmūd I.

J. Joined to *bā* of *ḍuribā* (Fig. 2 and PLATE XXVII, 13).

On Egyptian silver coins of Ali Bey.

K. On top of left upright of *bā* of *ḍuribā*.

(Fig. 2 and PLATE XXVII, 14).

On the Egyptian kuruş of Ali Bey.



Fig. 3

L. Left of tughra on reverse (Fig. 3 and PLATE XXVII, 15).

On Egyptian zeri mahbubs of Maḥmūd I and ‘Osmān III.

M. Right of tughra on reverse (Fig. 3 and PLATE XXVII, 16).

On Egyptian zeri mahbubs of Maḥmūd I together with position L, and on an Egyptian zeri mahbub of Muṣṭafā III. Egyptian yarım zeri mahbubs exist which have in this position the word *nişfiye* (= half). Some have above *nişfiye* an initial letter. These cases will be listed as *n* for *nişfiye* alone, and *Mn* with initial letter.

<sup>5</sup> I wish to thank the British Museum for providing the photo of this position.

N. Left of *fi* on reverse (Fig. 3 and PLATE XXVII, 17).  
On Egyptian zeri mahbubs of Maḥmūd I.

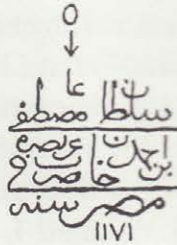


Fig. 4

O. Over *Muṣṭafā* in first line of reverse. (Fig. 4 and PLATE XXVII, 18)  
Egyptian gold coins of Ali Bey only.

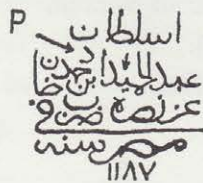


Fig. 5

P. Over *Aḥmad* in second row of reverse. (Fig. 5).

Found on an Egyptian zeri mahbub of ‘Abd al-Ḥamīd I.

There may be further positions. Ghalib<sup>6</sup> indicates letters near the tughra on Egyptian zincirli altins of Maḥmūd I. In the absence of illustrations in his description, the exact position of these letters is not known.

In positions A and E the initial letters occur in cartouches. More than one form of the cartouche was used for the same letter on the same coins (PLATE XXVII, 19 and 20). The initials may be composed of two or three letters. On Egyptian zeri mahbubs of Maḥmūd I the full name *Rāghib* occurs in position A (PLATE XXVII, 21). The name *Bakīr* is found on coins of Egypt in the reign of ‘Abd al-Ḥamīd I (in position A). Initials may be met with on some coins in up to three positions. In Egypt, in the reign of Muṣṭafā III the letters are found together with

<sup>6</sup> Ghalib, *Takvimi*, Nos. 708–709.

numerals. It is pointed out that letters in cartouches are sometimes difficult to identify and may be mistaken for an ornament (see description below).

In order to list all known varieties, the initial letters have been numbered and these numbers are used in the list of coins for identification (Fig. 6).

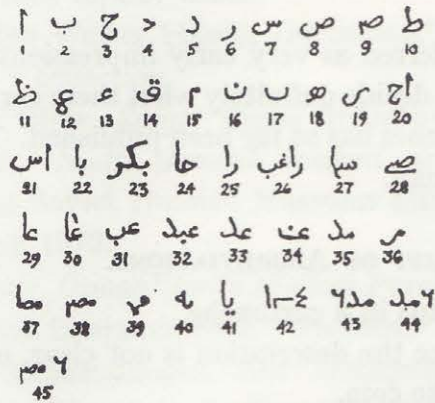


Fig. 6

The first cartouche was used in the reign of Muṣṭafā II. In many of the early cartouches it can not be determined whether the cartouche contains initials or an ornament. The possibility that they are initials is stressed by their asymmetrical appearance. The following list describes a number of cartouches. The serial numbers will appear in the coin lists. This list is in no way complete as the cartouches are frequently not clear enough on the coins. More such cartouches exist. All these cartouches are in position A, and the mint is Qusṭantīniya (PLATE XXVI).

<i>Cartouche No.</i>	<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Coin</i>
	<i>Muṣṭafā II</i>	
101	Probably initial 13.	Kuruş.
	<i>Aḥmad III.</i>	
102	Initial?	Zolta
103	May be initial 33.	Zolta
104	Could be initial 15.	Zolta

105	May be <i>ain-m-d</i>	Zolta
106	Seems to be an ornament.	Zolta
107	May be initial 18.	Zolta
108	Perhaps <i>w-w</i> , the second reversed.	Zolta
109	May be <i>l-kh-l</i> joined, the second <i>l</i> reversed.	Zolta
110	May be initial 33.	Yarim zolta.

This presentation is preferred as very early impressions from these dies are required in order to decide definitely what these cartouches contain. No study of these cartouches has so far been published. The illustrations are about six times normal.

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.

- \* The letter stands in a cartouche.
- ? In the reference the description is not clear, or the letters are not clear on the coin.
- + There may be an additional letter in another position which is defaced or off-flan.
- dr The letter appears twice, the second reversed, in position E (PLATE XXVII, 22) and perhaps in some cartouches in position A as described above.

#### References:

- BERN Samuel Bernard, *Description de l'Égypte*. Vol. XVI *Mémoire sur les monnaies d'Égypte*. 2nd. ed. Paris, 1825.
- BMC Stanley Lane-Poole, *The Coins of the Turks in the British Museum. Catalogue of Oriental Coins in the British Museum. Vol. VIII*. London, 1883. *Addenda*, Vol. X. London, 1895.
- CAIRO Stanley Lane-Poole, *Catalogue of the Collection of Arabic Coins Preserved in the Khedivial Library at Cairo*. London, 1897.
- COP J. Østrup, *Catalogue des monnaies arabes et turques du cabinet Royal des Médailles du Musée National de Copenhague*. Copenhagen, 1938.
- DAV John S. Davenport, *The Dollars of Africa, Asia, and Oceania*. Galesburg, Illinois, 1969.

- FON Adolph Weyl, *Verzeichnis der Münzen und Denkmünzen der Erdteile Australien, Asien, Afrika. . . . der Jules Fonrobert'schen Sammlung*. Berlin, 1878.
- FRI Robert Friedberg, *Gold Coins of the World*. 2nd. ed. New York, 1965.
- GAL Ismail Ghalib. *Takvim-i Meskûkat-i Osmaniye*. Constantinople, 1307 H./A.D. 1890.
- H Collection Walter Hüsç, Dortmund.<sup>7</sup>
- LAC Author's collection.
- OLC Cüneyt Ölçer, *Sovyet Rusya Müzelerindeki (Moskova ve Leningrad). Nadir Osmanlı madeni paraları*. [Rare Ottoman Coins at Soviet Russian Museums (Moscow and Leningrad)]. Istanbul, 1972.
- PERE Nuri Pere, *Osmanlılarda Madeni Paralar*. Istanbul, 1968.
- SASS Collection Benjamin Sass, Jerusalem.<sup>7</sup>
- SCH Anton Schaendlinger, *Zur Münzprägung des Osmanischen Reiches. (Dissertation)*. Vienna, 1962.
- SCH II Anton Schaendlinger, *Osmanische Numismatik*. Braunschweig, 1973.
- ZOD Zodiac Stamp & Coin Auction, Tel Aviv. July 4, 1972.

In general, preference is given to a reference which illustrates the coin. All coins are illustrated by Davenport and Pere. References to the author's collection are followed by references to other sources, when available.

It should be understood that the particulars of the coins shown in the lists have been taken over as described in the various catalogues. The following is a short description of the coin names, mints, etc. mentioned in the lists.

*Gold*. The cedit eşrefi altın, the Zeri Istanbul, the zincirli altın, the tugrali altın, and the findik altın are all gold coins of ca. 3.50 gm. The zeri mahbub introduced in the reign of Aḥmed III in 1128 H./A.D. 1716 weighs ca. 2.60 gm. Yeni tarzda means new type.

<sup>7</sup> I am grateful to Walter Hüsç and Benjamin Sass for permitting their coins to be included in this description.

*Silver:* From the time of Aḥmad III the *kuruş* has 40 paras and the para 3 akçe. The weight of the *kuruş* varied between c. 12.80 gm, and ca. 26.40 gm. Fractions of the *kuruş* are expressed by the number of paras. The *zolta* has 30 paras.

*Bronze.* The status of the large bronze coins is not clear. Ghalib<sup>8</sup> writes that they were not mentioned by the official historians of the Ottoman Empire. The denomination of the Egyptian bronze coins is not indicated anywhere; they may have had the value of an akçe.

*Numerals.* The names of many coins are formed from numerals, thus: Altmyş 60, yirmi 20, on 10, beş 5, dört 4, üç 3; çifte = double, birbuçuk  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , tek = single, yarım  $\frac{1}{2}$ , çeyrek  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

<i>Mints.</i>	Islāmbūl	}	Constantinople = Istanbul
	Qusṭantīniya		
	Ordūyu Hūmayun		War issue.
	Miṣr		Egypt
	Edirne		Adrianople
	Izmīr		Smyrna
	Gendje		Later Elizabethpol, now Kirovabad, U.S.S.R. (Azerbaijan).
	Tabrīz		Tabriz,
	Tiflīs		Tbilisi, U.S.S.R. (Georgia)
	Gümüş-Khāne		Gûmûsane

### *Muṣṭafā II*

The initial letters began in the reign of Muṣṭafā II. Inasmuch as the *kuruş* and *yarim kuruş* from Qusṭantīniya exist in the style of the preceding reign without initial letters (PLATE XXVII, 23), it is obvious that the letters were not introduced at the beginning of the reign in 1106 H. The overstriking of European crown-size pieces<sup>9</sup> with the tughra design or as the contemporary *kuruş* began in 1108 H.<sup>10</sup> In the same year mints

<sup>8</sup> Ghalib, *Takvimi*, p. 257.

<sup>9</sup> Lane-Poole, *BMC*, Nos. 418-9.

<sup>10</sup> Ghalib, *Takvimi*, p. 254.

were opened at Edirne, Erzurum, and İzmir.<sup>11</sup> From İzmir the kuruş is known in the old style without initial letters (PLATE XXVIII, 24). The cedit eşrefi altın *Ordūyu Hümayun* which has an initial letter was struck in 1109 H.<sup>12</sup> It appears therefore that the letters were introduced in 1108 or 1109 H. The number of initials on record for this reign are: Qus̄ant̄iniya 6 and one cartouche; Ordūyu Hümayun 1; Edirne 2; İzmir 1, for a total of ten.

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Qus̄ant̄iniya</i>			
Cedit eşrefi altın	B	7	PERE 484
Kuruş	B	39	SASS
	A, B	13, 5	LAC
		13, 17	SASS
		101, 7	LAC
	A, B, C	13, 5, 5	PERE 492
		13, 17, 5	LAC; DAV 317 (PLATE XXVI, 1)
Yarım kuruş	A, C	15, 5	LAC
	D	9	SASS
	A, B	13, 5	LAC
	A, C	13, 5	PERE 493
		15, 5	LAC
	D	9	LAC (PLATE XXVI, 6)
AE 38 mm.	A, B	13, 5	PERE 495
		13, 5	PERE 496
	A	15	LAC
<i>Ordūyu Hümayun</i>			
Cedit eşrefi altın	B	15	PERE 489

<sup>11</sup> Joseph von Hammer-Purgstall. *Die Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches*. (Pest, 1827-1835), Vol. 6, p. 628.

<sup>12</sup> Pere, *Osmanlılarda*, p. 185.

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Edirne</i>			
Cedid eşrefi altın	B	13	PERE 481
Kuruş	A	34	LAC; PERE 490
Yarım kuruş	A	34	LAC
AE	A	34	LAC
<i>Izmîr</i>			
Kuruş	B	35	LAC

### *Aḥmad III*

The number of letters of this reign are as follows: Islāmbül and Qusṭanṭīniya 23 and 9 cartouches; Gendje 1; Mişr 6; Tabrîz 1; Tiflîs 1; for a total of 32.

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Islāmbül</i>			
Zeri Istanbul	F*	3	LAC (PLATE XXVI, 9)
		8	BMC 473
		14	PERE 499
		16	LAC
		19	GAL 633
		35	LAC; BMC 472
Yarım zeri Istanbul	F*	35	BMC 474
		36	PERE 500
Zeri mahbub <sup>13</sup>	A*	35	LAC; PERE 501
Yarım zeri mahbub	A*	7	GAL 636
		8	BMC 476

<sup>13</sup> The tughra of the Zeri Mahbub BMC No. 475 with letter 12 dated 1123 is that of Maḥmūd I and not of Aḥmed III. The accession year is damaged. It should read 1143. Similar damages were seen by the author.

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>		
<i>İslāmbūl (continued).</i>					
Para	G	5	PERE 522		
		13	LAC		
		14	LAC; BMC 479		
		15	LAC; GAL 638		
		19	LAC; BMC 478		
<i>Qus̄anŕinīya</i>					
Beşlik eşrefi altın (ornate border)	A*, B	19, 2	GAL 606		
		B ?	40	GAL 607	
(dot border)	B	18	PERE 504		
Dörtlik eşrefi altın	B	40	PERE 505		
Çifte eşrefi altın	B ?	13	GAL 608		
		B, C	18, 13	PERE 506	
Eşrefi altın 25 mm	A*	7	GAL 610		
		24 mm	B	9	PERE 508
		21 mm	B ?	13	GAL 611
		32 mm	B	18	PERE 507
		22 mm	A*, B	4, 36	GAL 612
Kuruş	A*	7	LAC; PERE 516		
		35	LAC; DAV 321		
		B	3	BMC 441	
Yirmilik	A*	35	LAC; BMC 447		
		B	3	BMC 448	
		A*, B	36, 3	GAL 715	
Onluk	A	3, 36	PERE 517		
		3	BMC 452		
		7	BMC 453		
		8	BMC 454		
	A*	19	BMC 451		
		19	PERE 518		
		35	LAC		
		A*, B	3, 36	LAC; GAL 617	
		36, 3	LAC		
		14, 6	GAL 618		

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Qusṭanḫīniya</i> (continued).			
Beşlik	A*	8	BMC 455
		35	PERE 519
Zolta	B	3	GAL 619
		15	GAL 620
	A, B	13, 17	LAC
		A*, B	102, 5
	A*, B	103, 40	LAC
		106, 10	LAC
		107, 33	LAC
		108, 13	LAC
		109, 27	LAC
		35, 18 ?	LAC
		? , 9	LAC
? , 18	PERE 520		
A*, B, C	104, 18, 13	LAC	
	105, 18, 13	LAC	
Yarım zolta	B	33	BMC 450
		10	OLC 80 <sup>14</sup>
	A*, B	103, 9	LAC
		? , 13	LAC
	A*, B, C	110, 18, 13	LAC; PERE 521
Zolta (different type)	F*	12	GAL 623
Para (obv. tughra)	G	2	BMC 460
		3	LAC; GAL 625
		5	LAC; BMC 457
		6	LAC
		7	LAC; BMC 458
		14	BMC 462
		36	LAC
Para (obv. inscription)		6	BMC 467 <sup>15</sup>
Akçe (obv. tughra)	G	2	BMC 464
		4	GAL 627

<sup>14</sup> Listed as a zolta, but no doubt a yarım zolta.

<sup>15</sup> Listed in BMC as akçe, GAL 629–631 are listed as paras.

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Qus̄tan̄īniya</i> (continued).			
		5	BMC 463
		25	BMC 465
Akçe (obv. inscription)		7	BMC 470
AE 37 mm.	B ?, C	?, 13	PERE 536
30 mm.	B	18	LAC
<i>Gendje</i>			
Onluk	F*	15	BMC 483
<i>Miřr</i>			
Çifte eşrefi altın	A	14	GAL 650
Eşrefi altın	A	14	GAL 651
		15	GAL 652
		18	CAIRO 1700
		28	BMC 487
Çifte cedid zincirli altın	F	36dr	BERN 1
Cedid zincirli altın	F*	3dr	BMC 489a
	F	36dr	LAC; PERE 510 (PLATE XXVII, 22)
Yarım zincirli altın	F*	3dr	GAL 654
	F	36dr	BERN 6
<i>Tabrız</i>			
Cedid zincirli altın	F*	19	PERE 513
Onluk (obv. inscription)	A*	19	BMC 485
Beşlik (obv. inscription)	A*	19	BMC 486
Onluk (obv. tughra)	F*	19	PERE 530
Beşlik (obv. tughra)	F*	19	PERE 531
Yarım beşlik (obv. tughra)	F*	19	GAL 643
<i>Tiflis</i>			
Çifte eşrefi altın	A*	3	GAL 644
Cedid eşrefi altın	A*	3	PERE 514
Onluk	A*	3	LAC; PERE 532
Beşlik	A*	3	PERE 533
Yarım beşlik	A*	3	PERE 534

*Maḥmūd I*

The tughra of this sultan exists in two styles which differ in the number of squares in the left lower part of the tughra. Both are inscribed *Khān Maḥmūd b. Muṣṭafā al-muẓaffar daima*. Tughra (a) (PLATE XXVIII, 25) is the earlier one. This can be established by the weight of the kuruş. The kuruş of Aḥmad III has a weight of  $8\frac{1}{4}$  dirhams ca. 26.40 gm. The early kuruş of Maḥmūd I has the same weight. This weight was later reduced to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  dirhams — ca. 24.0 gm. Tughra (a) exists only on the heavier kuruş. In the list the tughra will be designated (a) or (b) (PLATE XXVIII, 26) if possible, but it should be understood that there are cases of doubt (worn coins or illustrations not clear). A number of coins exist with both styles of the tughra with the same initial letter. In addition several letters have been met with on coins with different ornamentations. A number of silver coins of Qusṭanṭīniya have the accession year in a cartouche (PLATE XXVIII, 27), abbreviated *cart.* in the list. The recorded letters of this sultan are: Qusṭanṭīniya and Islāmbül 11; Gümüş-Khāne 2; Mişr 17, for a total of 30.

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Islāmbül</i>			
Beşlik cedid Istanbul altın			
Border of flowers	(b) F*	13	PERE 543
Ornamental border	(a)	15	GAL 663
		15	PERE 544
		13	BMC 502
Üçlik cedid Istanbul altın			
Ornamental border		13	BMC 502 d
	(b)	31	PERE 545
Plain border	(b)	31	PERE 546
Çifte cedid Istanbul altın			
Ornamental border	(a)	15	PERE 547
Three circles	(b)	15	PERE 548
Bibuçukluk cedid Istanbul altın			
28 mm rope circle & circle of buds	(b)	8	PERE 551
31½ mm. broad-ornamental border	(b)	13	PERE 549

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Islāmbūl</i> (continued).			
29 mm. three circles (b)		15	PERE 550
29 mm. ornamental border		31	GAL 667
24 mm. plain border		15	BMC 507
Yeni tarzda cedid Istanbul altıns:			
Bibuçukluk altın	F*	8	GAL 669
	(a)	15	PERE 552
Tek altın	(b)	8	PERE 553
Yarım altın	(a)	8	PERE 554
		15	BMC 510
Zeri mahbub	A	8	GAL 672
	(a)	12	LAC
	(b)	12	LAC; PERE 555
	(a) <sup>16</sup>	15	LAC
			(PLATE XXVII, 19)
	(b) <sup>17</sup>	15	LAC; PERE 556
			(PLATE XXVII, 20)
Yarım zeri mahbub	A	3	GAL 677
	(b)	12	PERE 557
	(b) <sup>17</sup>	15	LAC
Beşlik	(b)	12	PERE 577
<i>Qusṭanḫinīya</i>			
Kuruş <sup>18</sup>	A*	8	GAL 675
	(a)	15	PERE 573
	(b)	14	PERE 572
	(b)	29	LAC; DAV 324
cart.	(b)	29	LAC
		31	BMC 518

<sup>16</sup> Oval cartouche.

<sup>17</sup> Trapezoidal cartouche.

<sup>18</sup> The zolta BMC 516 is a clipped kuruş. No zolta was struck in the reign of Maḥmūd I. Hammer-Purgstall, *Geschichte*, Vol. 8, p. 214.

<i>Denomination</i>		<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>	
<i>Qus̄tan̄f̄iniya</i> (continued).					
Yirmilik		A*	8	COP 2617	
	(a)		15	LAC (PLATE XXVI, 2 and PLATE XXVIII, 25)	
		A	8	GAL 679	
			12	GAL 681	
	(b)		14	LAC; GAL 682	
	(a)		29	PERE 574	
	(b)		29	LAC	
	cart. (b)		29	LAC	
			31	GAL 684	
	Onluk	(a)	A*	15	PERE 575
		(b)		31	LAC; COP 2618
(b)		A	14	LAC	
cart. (b)			14	LAC	
cart. (b)			29	LAC	
(b)			31	LAC; GAL 687	
Beşlik		(a)	A*	15	LAC
		A	8	GAL 690	
	(a)		12	PERE 576	
			14	BMC 529	
	(b)		29	LAC	
			31	BMC 528	
Para	(b)	G	8	LAC; GAL 693	
			12	LAC; GAL 691	
	(b)		14	LAC; GAL 694	
	(a)		15	PERE 578	
	(a)		16	LAC; GAL 695	
	(b)		29	LAC; GAL 692	
	(b)		30	LAC	
	(b)		31	LAC; GAL 697	
	Akçe	(a)	G	3	LAC
(a)			12	LAC	

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Qus̄an̄îniya</i> (continued).			
	(b)		14 LAC; PERE 579
			16 LAC; GAL 701
			25 BMC 534
			29 LAC
			31 GAL 700
AE cart.	(b) A*		29 PERE 583
<i>Gümüsh-Khāne</i>			
Kuruş	(a) A*	10	PERE 568
	(a) A	12	LAC
Yirmilik	(a) A*	10	PERE 569
	(a) A	12	H
<i>Mişr</i>			
Çifte tugralı altın	A, L	12, 41	BMC 541
Zincirli altın	G & ?	16, 3	GAL 708
	(near tughra)		
	near tughra?	3	GAL 709
25 mm.	H	7	BMC 551
			(PLATE XXVII, 12)
19 mm.	H	7	BMC 552
	G	16	LAC
			(PLATE XXVI, 11)
Yarım zincirli altın	G	16	BMC 553
	H	7	BERN 7
Çifte zeri mahbub	A, N	25, 5	FON 5044
Zeri mahbub	A	8	BMC 548
	(b)	12	LAC; PERE 562
	(b)	25	LAC
	(b)	26	LAC; PERE 561
			(PLATE XXVII, 21)
	(a) C	11	LAC

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Miṣr</i> (continued).			
			(PLATE XXVI, 5)
	(b) E	29	LAC
			(PLATE XXVI, 7)
	L	4	BMC 545
		15	BMC 546
	(b)	24	LAC
	(b) A*, C	12, 19	LAC
	A, L	25, 5	BMC 547
	(b) A, N	25, 5	LAC
			(PLATE XXVII, 17)
	(b)	25, 12	LAC
	(b)	25, 16	SCH II, Pl. 4, No. 51 <sup>19</sup>
	(b) L, N	15, 5	PERE 563
	(b) A*, C, L	12, 19, 41	LAC
<i>Yarım zeri mahbub</i>	A	12	BMC 550
	(b)	25	PERE 564
	L, n	15, ?	GAL 714
	L, Mn	15, 7	ZOD 730
	A, L, n	20, 41 ?	GAL 713
<i>Para</i>	(a) F	5	LAC
	(b)	5	LAC
	(a)	7	LAC; BMC 555
	(a)	12	LAC
			(PLATE XXVI, 8)
	(b)	12	LAC
		15	BMC 557
		32	LAC; BMC 559
<i>Manghir (AE)</i>	(b) F	5	LAC

<sup>19</sup> Anton Schaendlinger, *Osmanische Numismatik*. (Braunschweig, 1973), pp. 69, 115, plate 4, No. 51, described as a Zeri Mahbub of Muṣṭafā II dated 1113. The tughra of this coin is that of Maḥmūd I and the accession year is 1143. See note 13 above.

*‘Othmān III*

There are the following letters during this reign:  
Qusṭanṭīniya and Islāmbūl, 5; Miṣr 4, for a total of 9.

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Islāmbūl</i>			
Beş findik altın			
Ornamental border	F*	4	PERE 588
Floral border		4	PERE 589
Üç findik altın			
Ornamental border	F*	4	PERE 590
Floral border		4	GAL 731
Blank space		4	PERE 591
Birbuçuk findik altın			
Ornamental border	F*	4	PERE 592
Blank space		4	GAL 734
Border of buds, ornaments in the field		4	PERE 593
Zeri mahbub	A	2	GAL 736
		3	PERE 594
Yarım zeri mahbub	A	3	PERE 595
		22	BMC 251
<i>Qusṭanṭīniyya</i>			
Kuruş	A	22	DAV 325
Yirmilik	A	3	PERE 599
Onluk	A	2	COP 2633
		3	LAC; BMC 581
		8	LAC; GAL 739
		22	PERE 600
Beşlik	A	2	PERE 601
		3	GAL 740
Para	G	3	LAC; GAL 741
		8	LAC; BMC 583
		22	LAC; BMC 584

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Qus̄tanṭīniya</i> (continued)			
Akçe	G	2	PERE 603
		3	GAL 743
		22	GAL 744
<i>Miṣr</i>			
Çifte zeri mahbub	A, L	8, 3	BMC 585
Zeri mahbub	A	7	LAC
	A, L	8, 12	LAC; PERE 596 (PLATE XXVII, 15)
(yeni tarzda)		8, 12	PERE 597
Yarım zeri mahbub	A	7	BMC 586
		8	BMC 587
Para	F	7	GAL 747
		8	LAC
		12	LAC

### *Muṣṭafā III*

The tughra of this sultan was changed from (a) *Muṣṭafā khan b. Aḥmad al-muṣaffar daima* (PLATE XXVIII, 28), to (b) *Muṣṭafā b. Aḥmad al-muṣaffar daima* (PLATE XXVIII, 29). The change was not carried out for all denominations in the same year. It has been said that the change was effected between 1173 and 1175 H.<sup>20</sup> However, the Egyptian Zeri Mahbub with letter 44 was changed in 1176 H. Both styles of the tughra exist (PLATE XXVI, 3 and 4) in this year. The coins of Qus̄tanṭīniya with initial letter were struck in 1171 H. and have tughra (a). In respect to the Egyptian coins the style is indicated as far as possible. The coins of Ali Bey have all the tughra in style (b).

The following initial letters are recorded for this reign:

Qus̄tanṭīniya 1; Miṣr 11; Miṣr, Ali Bey 1, for a total of 13.

<sup>20</sup> Pere, *Osmanlılarda*, p. 213.

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>	
<i>Qus̄tanf̄iniya</i>				
Kuruş	A	8	SCH 544 b	
Onluk <sup>21</sup>	A	8	PERE 642	
Beşlik	A	8	SCH II, Pl. 10 No. 106.	
Para	G	8	GAL 798	
Akçe	G	8 ?	SCH II, Pl. 10 No. 108.	
<i>Mişr</i>				
Çifte zeri mahbub	A	38	BMC 637	
	(b)	45	PERE 620	
Zeri mahbub	A	7	PERE 621	
	(a)	38	LAC	
	(a)	42	LAC	
	(a)	44	LAC	
	(b)	44	(PLATE XXVI, 3) LAC; PERE 622 (PLATE XXVI, 4)	
	(b)	45	LAC	
	(a)	A, M	42, 17	LAC (PLATE XXVII, 16)
	(a)	A	38	LAC; PERE 623
Yarım zeri mahbub (a)	A	38	LAC; PERE 623	
Çeyrek zeri mahbub (b)	A	44	PERE 624	
Para	(a)	F	1	LAC
	(a)		7	LAC
			24	LAC
			37	GAL 810
	(a)		38	LAC
	(b)		43	LAC
				(PLATE XXVI, 10)

<sup>21</sup> Schaendlinger, *Osmanische NUM*, p. 121, lists also altmışlık and yirmilik which may also bear the initial letter 8.

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Miṣr—Ali Bey</i>			
Zeri mahbub 1171, year 83	O	29	LAC; PERE 626 (PLATE XXVII, 18)
year 8?		29	PERE 627
Yarım zeri mahbub, 1171, year 83	O	29	PERE 628
Kuruş 1183	J	29	LAC; BERN 16 (PLATE XXVII, 13)
	K	29	LAC (PLATE XXVII, 14)
Kuruş 1183, year 85	J	29	BMC 647 (DAV 13).
Yirmilik 1183	K	29	BERN 18
Yirmilik 1183, year 85	J	29	BMC 648
Onluk 1183	J	29	SCH 591 c
Beşlik 1183	J	29	LAC; GAL 808
Para 1171 (no further year)	J	29	LAC; PERE 644

*‘Abd al-Ḥamīd I.*

Three letters were in use during this reign:

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Miṣr.</i>			
Zeri mahbub	A	23	PERE 664
		32	GAL 870 <sup>22</sup>
Yarım zeri mahbub	A	32	LAC; PERE 665
Yeni tarzda mahbub	P	5	PERE 666
Para	F	5	SASS

<sup>22</sup> Ghalib lists this coin as *abd* 15.

*Selīm III*

Two letters are known from this reign:

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Miṣr</i>			
Çifte zeri mahbub	A	21	GAL 913
Zeri mahbub	A	2	LAC; FRI 1 <sup>23</sup> (PLATE XXVIII, 31)
		21	PERE 702
Yarım zeri mahbub	A	2	FRI 2
Çeyrek zeri mahbub	A	2	FRI 3

The problem is to identify these initial letters. Marsden<sup>24</sup> says that they are probably mint marks. Lane-Poole<sup>25</sup> states that it may be assumed that they represent some official's name. He says further that if we possessed a list of superintendents of the mint, we should find the explanation of the initials on the coins. Pere<sup>26</sup> mentions these initials but does not give any explanation for them.

On the working of a mint in the Ottoman Empire, there is the description by Evliya Çelebi which refers to the 17th century.<sup>27</sup> Bernard<sup>28</sup> gives a detailed description of the Egyptian mint at Cairo at the time of the French occupation in 1799. He writes that the *Shaikh al-balad*,<sup>29</sup> or governors of the country, and the pashas or beys who were responsible

<sup>23</sup> Letter 2 (b) stands for Bonaparte and was applied to gold coins struck in Egypt under French occupation (1798–1801).

<sup>24</sup> William Marsden, *Numismata Orientalia* Pl. 1 (London, 1823), p. 416.

<sup>25</sup> Lane-Poole, *BMC*, p. xl.

<sup>26</sup> Pere, *Osmanlılarda*, p. 185.

<sup>27</sup> Evliya Çelebi. *Seyahatnamesi*.—For a description and discussion of the mint arrangements, see Anton Schaendlinger, *Zur Münzprägung des Osmanischen Reiches (Dissertation)* (Vienna, 1962), pp. 80 ff.

<sup>28</sup> Samuel Bernard, *Description de l'Égypte*. Vol. 16. *Mémoire sur les monnaies d'Égypte* (Paris, 1825), pp. 443 ff.

<sup>29</sup> On the *Sheikh al-balad* see Stanley Lane-Poole, *A History of Egypt in the Middle Ages*. 4th Ed. (London, 1968), p. 355.

for the mint, used to have their initials engraved on the coins.<sup>30</sup> However, he does not list any names relative to such initials (with the exception of Ali Bey, see below), or furnishes any other detailed particulars in this respect for the Egyptian mint. He states further that nobody had until his time explained these letters on Turkish coins, but if one knows the names of the *shaikh al-balad*, pashas or beys, they stand for, one could date the coins properly.<sup>31</sup>

Codrington<sup>32</sup> mentioned single letters on Islamic coins as denoting the quality of the metal.

Although a definite answer to the question of what these letters stand for in each particular case can only be given when a pertinent manuscript containing detailed particulars turns up, it may be advisable to consider the many possibilities which offer themselves: dating, security measure, governors (pashas) etc., mints or officinae, mint superintendents, other mint officials.

There is probably no doubt that these letters cannot represent a form of dating. The number of letters found on any one of the more common denominations of Aḥmed III or Maḥmūd I is insufficient to cover the period of their reign. Hammer<sup>33</sup> states that zoltas were minted during the reign of Aḥmad III when a daughter was born to him, but this would not form a kind of dating.

The possibility of a security measure is rather doubtful. Forgeries also have initial letters (PLATE XXVIII, 30).

A list of grand vizirs appears in Hammer's description.<sup>34</sup> These names have no connection with the letters.

With regard to Egypt, the letter 29 stands for Ali Bey, the rebel at the time of Muṣṭafā III. According to Bernard,<sup>35</sup> letter 21 stands for Ismā'īl Bey at the time of Selīm III. Letter 2 is the initial of Bonaparte (Selīm III) (PLATE XXVIII, 31). The historians point out that Alī Bey struck coins in his own name.<sup>36</sup> If Bernard is right that the *shaikh al-balad* used

<sup>30</sup> Bernard, *Description*, pp. 347 ff.

<sup>31</sup> Bernard, *Description*, p. 352.

<sup>32</sup> Oliver Codrington, *A Manuel of Muselman Numismatics* (London, 1904), p. 9.

<sup>33</sup> Hammer-Purgstall, *Geschichte* Vol. 8, p. 214.

<sup>34</sup> Hammer-Purgstall, *Geschichte*, Vol. 7, p. 623 and Vol. 8, p. 587.

<sup>35</sup> Bernard, *Description*, p. 351.

<sup>36</sup> Hammer-Purgstall, *Geschichte*, Vol. 8, p. 299.

to have his initials engraved on coins, then the statement of the historians may refer to the kuruş and the yirmilik which bear the year 1183, when he declared himself independent, and not to the initial. There are some Egyptian zeri mahbubs in the reign of Maḥmūd I which may bear the initials of the *shaikh al-balad* or the pasha, but in general there is no uniformity among gold, silver, and bronze coins.

After the introduction of the kuruş in the reign of Sülaymān II, the number of mints in the Ottoman Empire was limited. It would therefore be possible that the dies were cut at Istanbul with the inscription *ḍuriba fī Qusṭanṭīniya* but the coins were struck at several mints outside the capital. No information on this is available. It appears unlikely in view of the large number of letters known from Egypt, where a maximum of two or three mints would have been possible. The question of officinae seems not to have existed in the Ottoman Empire. The Imperial mint was in the first court of the seraglio, to which it was transferred some time prior to 1695.<sup>37</sup> The irregular sequence of the letters excludes their denoting a number of officinae.

The initials cannot stand for the superintendent of the mint. Not all letters occur on all denominations of a certain period. Some are found on gold coins only, while others appear only on silver coins. In addition, the superintendent of the Imperial mint at Istanbul was frequently a vizir.<sup>38</sup> The appearance of the name of a vizir on a coin, even in the form of an initial, would have been impossible in the Ottoman Empire.

The foregoing particulars seem to indicate that the initials stand for officials directly responsible for the production of the coins, possibly the engraver, die cutter, or officer responsible for the alloy. In a case of two or three initials, both may be indicated and the third letter may confirm the quality of the alloy as mentioned by Codrington. The mint master is less likely, as gold and silver coins frequently have different initial letters.

If the letters stand for the engraver, it should be noted that the recurrence of the same letters in different reigns conforms to the habits of the Ottoman Empire. In the guide book of the seals collection of the

<sup>37</sup> N. M. Penzer, *The Harem*. 2nd. ed. (London, 1965), p. 87.

<sup>38</sup> Anton Schaendlinger, *Dissertation*, p. 91.

Topkapi Saray Müzezi<sup>39</sup> it is said that the name of a famous engraver was, after his death, adopted by another famous engraver.

It may be that signs having a similar significance were used in the reigns of Sülaymān II 1099–1102 H./A.D. 1687–91 and Aḥmad II 1102–1106 H./A.D. 1691–5).

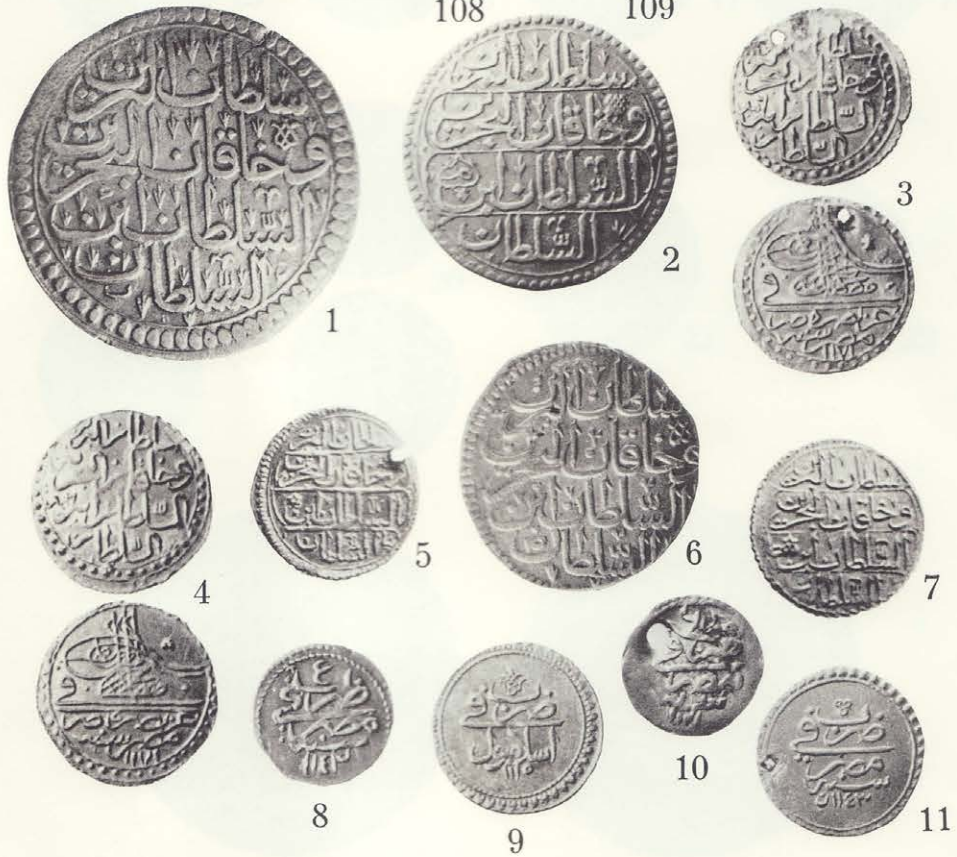
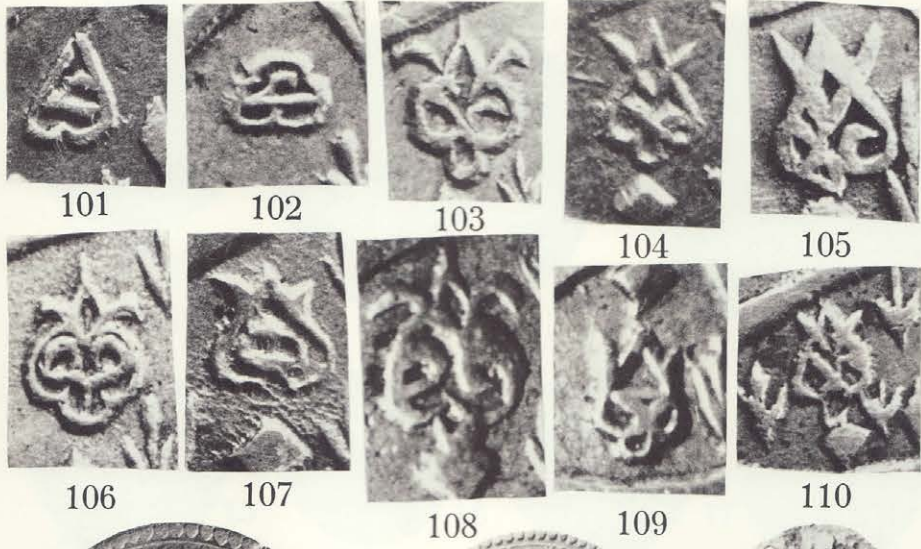
c r l φ  
a b c d

Fig. 7

Sülaymān II	Kuruş	Position C	Sign a.	PERE 468
			b.	DAV
Aḥmad II	Kuruş	Position B	Sign c.	PERE 476
			d.	DAV 316
	Yarım kuruş	Position B	Sign c.	PERE 477
			d.	LAC (PLATE XXVIII, 32)

Lane-Poole listed 54 initial letters. In the present description 102 initial letters and 10 cartouches are mentioned. There are 315 coins in the list. The whole represents a summary of what could be gathered from available sources.

<sup>39</sup> *Guide Book of the Seals Section of Topkapi Saray Museum.* (Istanbul, 1959), p. 50.



OTTOMAN COINS



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