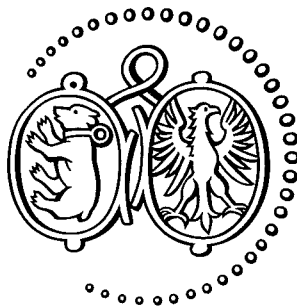


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The history and the content of the Schledehaus collection of Osnabrück (Kulturgeschichtliches Museum)

In 1857 the physician Christian Friederich August Schledehaus (21/4/1810-19/4/1858) bequeathed¹ to the high school of the city of his birth place² his collection of ancient Egyptian and other coins³, collected by him in Egypt and on his journeys in Asia Minor in the last seven years⁴ of his life, as well as his books of numismatics and archaeology, and his manuscripts⁵. For reasons of health, Schledehaus lived in Alexandria, where he was the personal physician to the Turkish Pasha and where he was also buried.

The collection, created with a considerable financial commitment, rich in items of great quality, had no equal in the Germany of its time. Schledehaus wrote frequently on numismatic questions in articles mainly published posthumously by the grammar school teacher Doctor Stüve in "Münzstudien"⁶ edited by Grote and elsewhere; in particular, for what concerns the Imperial Alexandrian series, he wrote at least two articles, one on the Augustus' bronze coins⁷ and one on the nome coins⁸, the second of which much quoted and appreciated critically, in which he sustained with great acumen that the coins were produced by the Mint of Alexandria⁹.

At the moment in which the magistrates of the city of Osnabrück accepted in 1858 the legacy it was also decided to catalogue and put the collection on exhibition. The work of cataloguing, begun in the 1860's by Doctor Stüve with the aid of specialists, amongst whom the Director of the Numismatic Cabinet of Berlin, Alfred von Sallet, was not completed. Nevertheless, Stüve gave a certain fame to the collection publishing amongst others an article¹⁰ in which he illustrated some specimens from the collection supplementing the essay of von Sallet, *Die Daten der Alexandrinischen Kaisermünzen*, Berlin 1870,

in which the author had already made note of the Schledehaus collection¹¹. And the collection was already known even by C.W.Huber¹², great collector of Alexan-

(1862) p. 910, Stüve mentions almost 5000 specimens, amongst which 650 Ptolemaic coins, 51 Alexandrian bronze coins of Augustus, some thousands of Alexandrian coins, 92 nome coins, "die Reihe der bis jetzt einzigen Typhon-Münzen", and a small number of Greek, Roman provincial, Phoenician and Syrian coins.

⁴ It seems that Schledehaus had taken no interest in numismatics before; he went so far as to send very rare coins to Osnabrück, probably without realizing it (Huber, C.W.: Review to A. von Sallet, *Die Daten der alexandrinischer Kaisermünzen*, Berlin 1870, NZ, 3, (1871) p. 293).

⁵ See the obituary by C. Stüve.

⁶ The "Münzstudien", edited by H. Grote, published in Leipzig from 1855 to 1877 in 9 volumes. On Hermann Grote (1802-1895) see Berghaus, P.: *Geldgeschichtliche Nachrichten*, 26/143, (1991) p. 126-131.

⁷ See Stüve, C. [Schledehaus, F.]: *Zu den alexandrinischen Münzen des Augustus*, *Berliner Blätter für Münz-, Siegel- und Wappenkunde*, 3, (1866) p. 129-142.

⁸ Schledehaus, F.: *Ägyptische Nomos-Münzen*, *Münzstudien*, 2, (1862) p. 469-483; Schledehaus' article, ended on 3 August 1857, was very precisely documented, and was often quoted by scholars: see, for instance, De Rouge, J. – Feuardent, F.: *Monnaies des nomes de l'Égypte*, RN, nouvelle série, 14, (1869/1870) p. 58, note 3; Feuardent, F.: *Collections Giovanni di Demetrio*, *Numismatique. Égypte ancienne II, Domination romaine*, Paris 1872, p. 293-4; Friedländer, J.: *Repertorium zur antiken Numismatik*, in *Anschluss an Mionnet's description des médailles antiques*, (aus seinem Nachlass herausgegeben von Rudolf Weil), Berlin 1885, *passim*; Duthil, E.D.J.: *Notes sur les médailles des Nomes de l'Égypte romaine*, *RBN*, 59, (1903) p. 130.

⁹ Schledehaus, F.: *Ägyptische Nomos-Münzen*, *Münzstudien*, 2, (1862) p. 469.

¹⁰ Stüve, C.: *Zusätze zu Sallet's: Die Daten der alexandrinischen Kaisermünzen aus der städtischen Sammlung zu Osnabrück*, *ZfN*, 13, (1886) p. 245-247.

¹¹ Colonel Mowat, a scholar well-known to numismatists interested in Alexandrian numismatics, confused these two works and quoted in his *Bibliographie numismatique de l'Égypte grecque et romaine*, *JIAN*, 3, (1900) p. 349 an improbable work by von Sallet, *Die Daten der Alexandrinischen Kaisermünzen aus der städtischen Sammlung zu Osnabrück*, Berlin 1870. On the contrary, Milne (Milne, J.G.: *Catalogue of Alexandrian Coins*, Oxford 1933, p. xii) knew Stüve's article and put it in his bibliography with the correct title.

¹² On Huber collection (*Catalogue of the Unique Collection of Greek and Roman Coins of the Honorable Imperial Court Counsellor C.G. Huber of Vienna, late Consul-General for Austria in Egypt*, Auction S. Leigh Sotheby and John Wilkinson, 4 June 1862 and six following days, London) see Christiansen, E.: *Coins of Alexandria and the Nomes*, London 1991, (British Museum Occasional

¹ Documentation in Christiansen, E.: *The Roman Coins of Alexandria, 30 B.C. to A.D.296. A Survey of Collections*, *NNÄ*, (1983/1984) p. 31. See also Christiansen, E.: *From Zoëga to the Present Day. The Roman Coins of Alexandria in 200 Years of Research*, *Studies in Ancient History and Numismatics* presented to Rudi Thomsen, Aarhus 1988, p. 234 and 239-240, note 22 ("in 1857 donated a whole collection to his former grammar school in Osnabrück").

² Schledehaus was born in Achelriede, in Osnabrück district, where he attended the Ratsgymnasium.

³ In the obituary published in "Münzstudien" edited by Grote, 2

drian coins in Egypt where he was Consul-General of Austria. Vogt¹³, it would seem, knew the literature mentioned concerning the collection, more than the collection itself. Probably as a result of the articles of Stüve and von Sallet, Giovanni Dattari, the Italian business-man who in Cairo created the biggest collection of Alexandrian coins, published in 1901¹⁴, came to know of the collection and took interest in it¹⁵. Later J.N.Svoronos included the Ptolemaic coins in his work on the coinage of the Ptolemies published in 1904-1908¹⁶.

The Alexandrian coins were inventoried quantitatively in the course of two visits in 1977 and 1979 by Erik Christiansen, who found the collection in the greatest confusion in that it had not been put reorganised after being evacuated during the last tragic moments of the Second World War¹⁷. The collection is currently made up of, along with some seals and statuettes, etc., 504 Ptolemaic coins (amongst which, 228 silver tetradrachms, 6 decadrachms, as well as 5 gold coins), 2341 Alexandrian coins (amongst which, 1262 billon coins, 504 large bronze and 101 lead tokens¹⁸), 6 small Philisto-Arabian silver coins. Some Ptolemaic coins were exchanged with the Numismatic Cabinet of Berlin, nearly all the Ptolemaic gold pieces, Alexandrian nome coins, and the Syrian coins were lost during the war.

In 1990 Adriano Savio began the inventory of the Alexandrian billon tetradrachms with the assistance of the few notes left at the Museum by Erik Christiansen, which were nonetheless of great use, especially in the first phase of the work of reorganisation. After their inventory, Adriano Savio and Tomaso Lucchelli began the work of cataloguing the billon coins, completed in 1994. A German scholar, Jenens-Ulrich Thorman, is engaged with the bronze denominations of the first and second century. At the current time the third volume of the four expected has been published¹⁹, which also includes the third century bronze coins, supplemented by information on the monetary policy of the emperors.

The Schleddehaus collection is distinguished not only for its size, but more so for the high quality of preservation and the number of rare items, probably recognized with the help of Mionnet's catalogue²⁰. In fact as testified by his own observations and those of Consul-General Huber, Schleddehaus chose the best preserved and most interesting examples from the hoards that fellah offered him²¹.

The consciousness of the importance of the complete study of hoards, which even he had touched upon in his writings on Ptolemaic numismatics and which was alrea-

dy present in authors that Schleddehaus knew²², did not unfortunately guide him as a collector. If the data of the collection (fig. 1) are compared with the percentages calculated by E. Christiansen in his essay published in *NNÄ* 1983/1984²³, it must be noted that Schleddehaus collection fits in well with other collections from the last century created according to what Christiansen call the stamp-collector's principle²⁴. But Schleddehaus was a stamp-collector with a good nose.

Paper 77) p. 129-130. See also a passage by F.Schleddehaus (Schleddehaus, F.: *Typhon auf altgriechischen Autonom-Münzen*, Münzstudien, 2, (1862) p. 484), where "herr General-Consul Huber" is mentioned as an expert. Friedländer too knew the collection (see Friedländer, J.: *Nomenmünzen Domitian's*, Berliner Blätter für Münz-, Siegel- und Wappenkunde, 4, (1868) p. 30).

¹³ Vogt quoted Stüve's article in volume I, p. 3, and an unpublished specimen from the collection (Caracalla, / Julia Domna on throne, year 16) in volume II, p. 117. See Vogt, J.: *Die Alexandrinischen Münzen*, I-II, Stuttgart 1924.

¹⁴ Dattari, G.: *Monete imperiali greche*. Numi Augg. Alexandrini, I-II, Cairo 1901.

¹⁵ See Dattari's letters in *Kulturgeschichtliches Museum in Osnabrück*.

¹⁶ Svoronos, J.N.: *TA NOMISMATA TOY KPATOYΣ TΩN ΠITO-ΛEMAIΩN, EN AΘHNAIS* 1904, col.λη'.

¹⁷ See Christiansen, E.: *The Roman Coins of Alexandria, 30 B.C. to A.D.296. A Survey of Collections*, *NNÄ* (1983/1984) p. 32 and Christiansen, E.: *The Roman Coins of Alexandria. Quantitative Studies*, Aarhus 1988, I, p. 21.

¹⁸ Christiansen's figures in his article: *The Roman Coins of Alexandria, 30 B.C. to A.D.296. A Survey of Collections*, *NNÄ* (1983/1984) p. 31) are slightly different; 1287 billon coins, 1231 bronze coins, 2 nome coins, 102 lead tokens.

¹⁹ Savio, A.: *Katalog der alexandrinischen Münzen der Sammlung Dr.Christian Friedrich August Schleddehaus im Kulturgeschichtliches Museum Osnabrück, Band III, Die Münzen des 3. Jahrhunderts, unter Mitwirkungen von T.Lucchelli, mit einem Beitrag von V.Cubelli*, Bramsche 1997.

²⁰ Mionnet, Th.E.: *Description de médailles antiques, grecques et romaines*, VI, Paris 1813; Mionnet, Th.E.: *Description de médailles antiques, grecques et romaines. Supplement*, IX, Paris 1837.

²¹ See Schleddehaus, F.: *Typhon auf altgriechischen Autonom-Münzen*, Münzstudien, 2 (1862) p. 484. Huber (Review to A. von Sallet, *Die Daten der alexandrinischen Kaisermünzen*, Berlin 1870, NZ, 3, (1871) p. 281) says that Schleddehaus bought some specimens coming from the Memphis hoard (1854). On the Memphis hoard see Christiansen, E.: *The Roman Coins of Alexandria (30 B.C. to A.D.296). An Inventory of Hoards*, *CH*, 7, (1985) p. 119, A 120.

²² See Pellerin (quoted by Schleddehaus, F.: *Ägyptische Nomos-Münzen*, Münzstudien, 2, (1862) p. 469), regarded as a precursor in studies of hoards (see Kinns, P.: *Two Eighteenth-Century Studies of Greek Coin Hoards: Bayer and Pellerin*, *Medals and Coins from Budé to Mommsen*, ed. Crawford, M.H., Ligota, C.R. and Trapp, J.B., London 1990, p. 101-114).

²³ Christiansen, E.: *The Roman Coins of Alexandria, 30 B.C. to A.D.296. A Survey of Collections*, *NNÄ*, (1983/1984) p. 15.

²⁴ Christiansen, E., *The Roman Coins of Alexandria. Quantitative Studies*, Aarhus 1988, I, p. 15.

Emperor	n. of coins	%
Tiberius	9	0,73
Claudius	19	1,54
Nero	102	8,29
Galba	21	1,7
Otho	8	0,65
Vitellius	1	0,08
Vespasianus	19	1,54
Titus	7	0,56
Domitianus	2	0,16
Nerva	3	0,24
Traianus	29	2,35
Hadrianus	104	8,46
Antoninus Pius	91	7,4
Marcus Aurelius	31	2,52
Commodus	41	3,33
Septimius Severus	3	0,24
Elagabalus	41	3,33
Severus Alexander	82	6,67
Maximinus	32	2,6
Gordiani	8	0,65
Pupienus – Balbinus	10	0,81
Gordianus III	52	4,23
Philippi	66	5,37
Traianus Decius	14	1,13
Trebonianus Gallus	8	0,65
Aemilianus	1	0,08
Valerianus	35	2,84
Gallienus	51	4,14
Macrianus/Quietus	6	0,48
Claudius II	27	2,19
Quintillus	2	0,16
Aurelianus	60	4,88
Aurelianus & Vaballathus	14	1,13
Vaballathus	4	0,32
Tacitus	6	0,48
Probus	40	3,25
Carus	28	2,27
Diocletianus	150	12,2
Domitius Domitianus	2	0,16

Fig 1: Billon coins in the Schledehaus Collection