

of statistics on the finds of coins (including hoards) struck from this Ma'din mint.

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**THE OTTOMAN SILVER COINS OF THE
ṬARĀBLUS GHARB MINT IN THE NAME
OF SULAYMĀN II**

By Giorgi Janjgava and Irakli Paghava

The objective of this short paper is to publish a silver coin bearing the mint name Ṭarāblus Gharb (طرابلس غرب)¹ and dated AH 1099. This is the accession year for Sulaymān II, the Ottoman sultan (AH 1099-1102 AD 1687-1691) and the coin bears his name as well. To the best of our knowledge, no silver coinage of Ṭarāblus Gharb of this year has been published hitherto². The coin is as follows:
AR (Billon³), weight 1.36 g, size 18.6-19 mm, die axis 8:15. *Fig. 1.*

Obverse:

سلطان
سلمان خان
ابراهيم
بن خان
(سلطان سلمان خان بن ابراهيم خان)

Reverse:

ب
ضر ابلس
طر
ب
غر
في
١٠٩٩

(ضرب طرابلس غرب في ١٠٩٩)



*Fig. 1 Ottoman Empire, Sulaymān II, AR (Bi), beşlik?, AH 1099.
Weight 1.36 g, size 18.6-19 mm, die axis 8:15.*

Based on the weight, the denomination is perhaps a *beşlik*, the piece of five, the standard one for the Ṭarāblus Gharb mint⁴. The accession date is engraved on the coin, so it could have been struck somewhat later on too, up to AH 1002, the last year of Sulaymān II's reign.

Taking into account the relative rarity of the Ṭarāblus Gharb coinage, it would not be inappropriate to publish two more specimens from this mint, of dates already known, that are also at our disposal (*Figs. 2-3*, metrology provided in the captions).



*Fig. 2. Ottoman Empire, Mehmed IV, AR (Bi?), beşlik?, AH 1059.
Weight 1.34 g, size 19.0-19.9 mm, die axis 11:30.*



*Fig. 3. Ottoman Empire, Mehmed IV, AR (Bi?), beşlik?, AH 1083.
Weight 1.40 g, size 20.5-21.6 mm, die axis 10:30.*

All three coins were purchased at the Libyan-Egyptian border and are now preserved in a private collection.

It is to be hoped that the publication of a previously unknown silver coin of Sulaymān II from the Ṭarāblus Gharb mint with the accession date will facilitate research on the monetary policy of the Ottoman Empire in the reign of Sulaymān II, as well as of the economical and political history of Libya.

Notes

- 1 Now Tripoli, the capital of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.
- 2 Cf. *Srećković 2002:208-210; Schaendlinger 1973:114; Osmanliparalari 2009; Zeno 2009*. See also the note on the other coin of the "Tarābulus" (Gharb?) mint and bearing the name of Sulayman II and dated 1102 AH (*Schaendlinger 1973:114, 67-68*). Moreover, a picture of a very similar but yet another silver (billon?) piece in the name of Sulayman was presented at one of the online numismatic forums; unfortunately, the date on that coin seems to be effaced completely (*Coincommunity 2008: libya3.jpg & libya4.jpg files*).
- 3 No composition analysis could be performed.
- 4 *Srećković 2002:208-210*.

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